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Jordan

King Husayn received Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan 8 July, INA reported. Ramadan "conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings" and "his excellency's appreciation for the position of Jordan... toward Iraq." King Husayn asked Ramadan "to convey his regards" to President Saddam, INA added. In a related story, King Husayn said in an interview that "despite the concern of the people and government of Jordan" over the suffering of the Iraqi people, "the Kingdom is committed to enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq," JORDAN TIMES reported.

Israel

The commander of the Southern Command 8 July instructed IDF soldiers in the Gaza Strip to "intervene in the conflict" between rival Fatah and Hamas groups and to "prevent further bloodshed at any cost," HA'ARETZ reported. A "senior military source" said the IDF will not permit activists to possess firearms and turn the Gaza Strip into "another Lebanon."

Lebanon

AFP reports that on 9 July, Bahij Abu-al-Hana, an official of Abu-Nidal's extremist Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) was murdered in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley. His death comes amid splits within the group, which is violently opposed to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir 'Arafat.

Egypt

According to Cairo radio, the cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, met for seven hours on 8 July and approved a draft bill amending the penal codes, procedures in handling criminal cases, secret accounts, and the law on arms and ammunition. The cabinet discussed at length the crimes of terrorism and their development in Egypt and the world. This legislation will ensure that all crimes aimed at disturbing the society's security and stability are confronted and addressed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Arab League Envoy on U.S. 'Air Raids'

NC0907145992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, in his office today.

Ambassador Najm said he notified Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid of U.S. air raids to destroy agricultural crops in Iraq.

He said the aircraft recently carried out numerous sorties and that in their latest mission attacked a sugar refinery near Mosul in northern Iraq.

He said he also discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the general situation in the Arab region.

Syria's Qaddurah Addresses APU Conference

JN0707163792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Damascus—'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, [Syrian] People's Assembly speaker and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], opened the fifth conference of the Arab-African parliamentary dialogue this morning under the slogan: Arab-African Dialogue Is a Step Toward Strengthening Arab-African Relations. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah delivered an opening speech in which he welcomed the conference participants to Damascus. He said: Our fifth dialogue, like our previous four rounds of talks, will be characterized by frankness, honesty, and a real desire to reach practical and sound recommendations, which will serve as a guideline for our countries' governments in terms of cooperation and solidarity to solve our joint problems and achieve the interests of the African and Arab countries.

Qaddurah reviewed the peace process in the Middle East, and said: The Arab side is determined to continue talks to reach a just peaceful solution, and it is expecting the African side to continue its support in all circles and on all levels for the issue of the liberation of occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Qaddurah also referred to the current crisis between Libya and some Western countries, and called for a peaceful solution through dialogue and negotiation.

Qaddurah then talked about racial segregation in South Africa and Israel. He said that the South African Government is still procrastinating to prevent the majority from attaining their right to rule, and that it is exercising repression against the liberation forces. This, he said, led to the African National Congress' decision to break off its dialogue with the government. In occupied Palestine, he added, the occupation authorities are practicing a policy of racial discrimination. He said: I do not need to relate examples of this inhuman behavior, which are stated in countless reports from the United Nations and its agencies, as well as in reports from observers living in Israel. He said that the nature and philosophy of government in Pretoria and Tel Aviv are the same, and that nothing except solidarity and determination can eradicate this malignant disease.

Qaddurah also talked about the problem of labor emigration from Africa toward the African states, and its seriousness. [sentence as heard] He also reviewed efforts to deal with that problem and its consequences, as well as the problem of poverty in Third World countries. He stressed that these problems can be overcome only through a North-South dialogue during which the people of the South display a unified position and solidarity. In conclusion, the People's Assembly speaker wished the conference success. [passage omitted]

Final Statement Issued

JN0907072292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] In a final statement issued last night, the fifth conference of the Arab-African parliamentary dialogue stressed that the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that peace cannot prevail in the region before the Palestinian Arab people attain their national rights, and before Resolutions 242 and 338 are implemented.

The conference saluted the struggle and resistance of the Syrian Arab people in the occupied Golan Heights. It asserted that the Golan is Syrian land that must return to Syrian sovereignty. The statement called for the implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. It praised Syria's fraternal role in maintaining Lebanon's unity and Arabism, and hailed the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two sisterly countries.

The conference called for firmer relations between the African countries and the Arab communities in Africa, especially the Lebanese community. It called for confrontation of any tendentious attempts that may disturb Arab-African relations. The conference called for a firm policy against South Africa and for maintaining economic sanctions against that country to force it to continue political reforms and end apartheid. The statement stressed the need for Arab and African countries to take measures to solve the problem of immigration and transfer of labor force.

Concerning Libya's problem with some Western countries, the conference saluted Libya's civilized position, which calls for a solution to the problem of the two planes in accordance with international law. The conference called on the Western countries to respond to Libya's proposals to solve the problem peacefully.

Saudi Arabia, Morocco To Join Coordination Talks

NC0807063492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus will soon host an expanded Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss Arab coordination in the negotiations with Israel. AFP has quoted diplomatic sources as saying that Saudi Arabia and Morocco, as well as Egypt, will join a meeting of the Arab parties to the Middle East peace talks. The meeting is scheduled for the Syrian capital at the end of July. The same sources pointed out that the decision to invite Egypt, Saudi Arabia—which will represent the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Morocco—which will speak for the Arab Maghreb Union, was made on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo on 5 July.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa had earlier stated that he would meet with the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and the director of the PLO Political Department in Damascus at the end of July to discuss the outlook for the Middle East peace process in the wake of the Labor Party's victory in the Israeli parliamentary elections.

GCC Media Gathering Opens 27 Jun in Kuwait

LD2806202192 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 27 Jun 92

[Text] The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] media gathering started this morning under the patronage of his highness the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. His highness the crown prince and prime minister deputized the deputy premier and foreign minister, Shaykh Salim Sabah, to attend the opening ceremony which was held at the auditorium of the special institute at Hawalli. The ceremony started by playing the national anthem. It was followed by recitation of Holy Koran.

Later Shaykh Salim Sabah delivered a speech on behalf of his highness the crown prince and prime minister in which he welcomed the participants in the GCC media gathering. After reminding the attendees of their countries' remarkable role during the battle for the liberation of Kuwait from the heinous Iraq invasion, his highness the crown prince and prime minister indicated that the GCC media role is the cause of pride for all because it was one of the liberation battle weapons. His highness urged all GCC states and people to confront (words indistinct) campaigns which aim at determining, at undermining [as heard] our victories. [Words indistinct] Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah noted that the Gulf media has to underline the interests of the GCC people and (word indistinct) of the facts on the GCC states to the world. Elaborating, he [word indistinct] out that all GCC States should join hands and underline the issue of Kuwait POW's and detainees still kept in Iraqi prisons and the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border demarcation issue. Finally, Shaykh Salim stressed that objectivity should characterize the GCC media at all levels.

After that the GCC secretary general, 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, delivered a speech in which he thanked Kuwait for hosting the first GCC media gathering. He urged the Arab Gulf states to stand firm on the full implementation of Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 687 which specifies cease-fire conditions and other key issues such as the demarcation of Kuwait-Iraqi borders and Kuwait detainees in Iraq. Mr. Bisharah emphasized the need for realizing regional understanding with neighboring countries according to joint legitimate interests, State and diplomatic contacts and boosting trade and humanitarian links in addition to the exchanging of views towards securer stability in the region.

After the end of the speech of the GCC secretary general the opening ceremony was concluded by playing the national anthem.

Islamic Affairs

World League Urges End to Palestinian Clashes

LD0807222692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Mecca, 8 Jul (SPA)—The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League has expressed regrets over the clashes which have taken place between some Palestinian quarters in the Gaza Strip. It sees these clashes coming at a time when the Palestinian people need unity and cooperation to fulfill their aspirations and achieve their legitimate rights.

In a statement today, the League said:

"The clashes which take place now and then between the brothers are nothing more than the result of irresponsible behavior which brings about more suffering and pain for Palestinians and which benefits the Israeli occupier and its agents."

It called on all Palestinian quarters inside the occupied territories to show wisdom, self-restraint and to return to the legal Islamic logic in settling differences. It called on Palestinian factions to hold consultations and dialogue regarding all the methods and details with regard to meeting the interests of the Palestinian people.

It called on Palestinian leadership to immediately intervene in order to end the continuous bloody clashes in the Gaza Strip, to work so that such regrettable incidents between the sons of the Palestinian people will not be repeated in the future, in order to be able to face the enemies' plans and overcome difficulties.

Islamic Development Bank Activities Discussed

Plans, Programs Reviewed

LD0407105492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Jul (SPA)—The Islamic Development Bank board of executive directors resumed its 135th

session today at the bank's headquarters in Jeddah, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, the bank's chairman.

The board discussed the plans and programs of the bank for the new Hejira year 1413 [starting 2 July 1992], and endorsed the allocations of its various programs for the new year.

The board also endorsed the bank's administrative budget, and the administrative budget of the Islamic Institute for Research and Training, affiliated to the bank, for the new year.

The board examined a report on the administration of the liquid assets of the bank, and another report on the progress achieved so far in implementing the project of the bank's permanent headquarters. The board also examined the final arrangements made to hold the special meeting of the bank's board of governors at the level of finance ministers of the Islamic member states, totalling 44 Islamic states, scheduled to be held next Saturday in Jeddah to draw up and define the appropriate plan to substantially increase the declared and subscribed capital of the bank according to the decision of the sixth Islamic summit held in Senegal.

The board also approved the provision of special assistance to the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and to the Islamic communities in Tanzania, Zanzibar, Sri Lanka, India, and the Ivory Coast.

The board also agreed to finance a project for the benefit of Turkey, to provide a technical assistance "grant" to Azerbaijan and to finance eight foreign trade operations for the benefit of six member states. The total credit earmarked during this session totalled 74.207 million Islamic dinars, equivalent to $101.923 million.

Agreement Signed on Islamic College

LD07070001592 Riyadh SPA in English 1955 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, July 6 (SPA)—The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on Monday signed an agreement by virtue of which 545,000 dollars will be given to Zanzibar Muslims to build a two-story Islamic college.

Building the college, where Arabic and Islamic education will be taught, comes within the context of the bank's support for educational projects in non-member Islamic societies. These projects aim at developing human resources in the field of Islamic and vocational education.

The agreement was signed by Zanzibar's Minister of Finance Amnah Salem and IDB President Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Statement Notes Surprise at Hamas Position

LD08071932 92 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Statement issued by the Fatah Movement on 8 July—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful. [passage omitted] O masses of our great people! During a phase in which we are in dire need of raising our national unity to a level at which we will be able to face the challenges embodied by Rabin's plans aimed at creating differences on the Palestinian and Arab levels; during the phase of the blessed intifadah, which has united the people in the common trench of jihad and calls for further escalation of our confrontation against the enemy; and at a time when the session of our Central Council held in May 1992, the Executive Committee, the Palestinian leadership, and the appropriate bodies in charge of matters of the occupied homeland issued resolutions on preparing a national comprehensive agreement as a charter of honor, placing our common intifadah as the current and basic mission above all contradictions and differences existing among various forces we were surprised by the position of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which was hesitant at the start to enter into a dialogue to approve this charter and by the refusal of some of their leadership to sign this charter.

Moreover, Hamas has resorted to fabricating the problems and incidents witnessed by the steadfast Gaza Strip for one week. What is even more serious is the fact that these fabricated incidents should be coupled with a statement issued by the office of the deputies of the Islamic movement in Jordan, the Muslim Brotherhood—this is considered interference in internal affairs, especially as the statement did not aim at calming tempers or at achieving unity of effort and rank, as we had hoped. If anything, it represented a rekindling and pouring of fuel on the fire among brothers who are under the bayonets of occupation.

It is regrettable that the brotherly representatives of the movement, despite the positive relations they have with our movement and the ability to directly ask for clarification of the facts, were victims of a mistake we wish had not occurred.

O struggling masses, the Fatah movement has shouldered this trust since the firing of the first bullet in 1965, and its leadership and fighters throughout the years of struggle have continued to be very eager for national unity. While it reaffirms that wisdom and self-restraint should be shown, it warns about the consequence of being driven in the service of hostile plans aiming at wasting efforts and splitting national unity.

While waging its struggle against the Zionist enemy, the Fatah movement is convinced of the rallying of most

sections of our people around the charter of honor agreed on by all groups of the revolution and the national action adopted by the Central Council.

We promise our people that we will keep our fraternal stance toward all, "or in adversity; who restrain anger, And pardon all men." [Koranic verse] Almighty God said the truth.

We call on all brothers and strugglers to close ranks in facing the enemy who occupies our land and sanctities. "Truly, God loves those who fight in His Cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure." God Almighty said the truth.

Long live national unity, glory, and eternal life for the martyrs! Revolution until victory!

Need for 'Uninterrupted' Peace Talks Stressed

NC0807145492 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Nicosia, July 8 (AFP)—The Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks has called for "uninterrupted" negotiations to reach a rapid agreement on autonomy and self-government, a member of the team said Wednesday.

The request was submitted to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the architect of the peace process, before Yitzhak Rabin's victory in the Israeli general elections on June 23, the source told AFP, declining to be identified.

Israel's prime minister-designate has said he favours intensive negotiations and that peace and security would be the priorities of his government.

Although the date of the next round of bilateral negotiations, set to take place in Rome, has not been announced, the source said it could be held in the first week of August.

Talks would be held "in an uninterrupted" fashion on the first four days of the week, followed by a three-day weekend to allow Muslims, Jews and Christians to observe their holy days, he said.

He said this format would meet Baker's aim to reach an agreement within a year of last October's Madrid conference.

The talks involve Israel, the Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Five rounds to date have failed to produce tangible results.

The Palestinians want to secure an agreement on an interim period of autonomy in the occupied territories leading to Palestinian interim self-government.

Rabin said he wanted extensive talks to hammer out an agreement on autonomy within a year.

Faysal al-Husayni Comments on Political Issues

Urges Peaceful End to Disputes

TA0807145192 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Ramallah—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee to the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations, has stressed that disagreement between Palestinians over the proposed settlement should be resolved democratically, without resorting to violence and weapons. Al-Husayni was commenting on the regrettable incidents in the Gaza Strip.

Al-Husayni said: It is true that there is political disagreement over the issue of the proposed settlement, but the difference in views should be resolved democratically and not by resorting to violence and weapons. On the possibility that representatives of the opposition inside the PLO might join the peace process, al-Husayni said that would be a positive step, should it take place. On the whole, the restoration of the PLO's status and the fall of Shamir's government might provide an incentive for the opposition's participation in the peace process.

On the latest developments in the peace process and the chances of a halt to settlement activity, including settlement in Jerusalem, al-Husayni emphasized: We are talking about the need for an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories as stipulated in Resolution 242. Jerusalem is part of those territories. Consequently, the Israeli forces must pull out of Jerusalem. If at the beginning, however, they stop settlement activity in the West Bank, we will not reject that. Rather, we will welcome it but will keep demanding that settlement activity be halted in Jerusalem as well.

Commenting on whether Resolution 194 on the right of return should be implemented in spirit or letter, al-Husayni said that Resolution 194 talks about a right, and a right cannot become a subject for bargaining. As for the details, such as who returns and how and whether he returns to his home or accepts compensation as stipulated by the resolution—those matters are negotiable issues.

Views Use of EEC Housing Money

TA0807143992 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[By 'Ali Khalaf]

[Text] Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations, said that housing is a delicate and sensitive issue and requires precise arrangements.

Al-Husayni said that the housing projects will include most Palestinian sectors but that the camps will have only a minute share, to preserve their characteristics as refugee camps and to maintain the refugees' identity and their right to return.

As to whether the civil administration in the occupied territories will issue building permits, al-Husayni stressed that it is assumed that the permits will be granted. Pressure will be exerted toward that end in all possible ways.

Regarding coordination between the Palestinians and the EEC, which is funding the project, al-Husayni affirmed that the Housing Committee chairman in the occupied territories is dealing with all those matters.

Regarding the extent of Palestinian control over the planning and regulation of housing, al-Husayni pointed out that the Palestinian people are now entering a delicate and specific stage—an economic stage that will last no more than six months. Afterward, the situation will be different, and control will gradually be transferred into Palestinian hands.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Electoral Law, Rabin Victory

PM0807144892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jul 92 p 5

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [al-Qulaybi] Press reports say that the Palestinian leadership took part with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in drafting the electoral law for the occupied territories, a copy of which is expected to be handed to the Israeli delegation during the next round of negotiations in Rome. What are the most noteworthy points in that law?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are still studying several proposals and plans concerning the electoral system in the occupied territories to elect a Palestinian legislative council representative of the Palestinian people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. We have not yet made a final decision about the suitable system.

The basic issue is that we are currently discussing political preparations for that step, which means preparing conditions in the occupied territories in order to make the elections a large-scale mass political process. This, in addition to contacting the parties concerned at the Arab and international levels, including the EC countries and a number of international humanitarian organizations and bodies concerned with defending human rights, in order to participate in that political campaign. In our view, it is a major battle whose real substance is the issue of transferring authority from the occupation to the Palestinian people. Broader support for and understanding of this issue must be secured, especially within the context of the Palestinian people's rights.

The elections must not be dealt with as an administrative matter. If the negotiations begin in the coming weeks, after the formation of the Israeli Government, we will submit a detailed plan for the elections, provided that this plan is linked with other necessary measures to provide the conditions for its success. At the forefront of these measures is a complete halt to settlement in Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, in addition to an agreement on practical measures to begin the occupation forces' withdrawal from the Palestinian territories under neutral international supervision. These preparatory steps are essential as a precondition for carrying out the electoral process.

In brief, our position is not to call for elections as a separate matter; but the elections must be a link in a chain leading to the Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of an elected legitimate Palestinian authority that has complete powers over land, water, and legislation rights. Jerusalem must be part of these arrangements, since we completely reject the repartition of the occupied Palestinian territories, as the occupation is doing now through the colonies designed to isolate Jerusalem and to separate the northern West Bank from the southern, or through the calls made by some Labor Party leaders regarding tackling the Gaza Strip issue in isolation from the rest of the occupied territories. If they want a repartitioning, we must cite the original partition resolution of 1947. But we will deal only with the Palestinian territories that have a unified entity and one people.

[al-Qulaybi] What will your position be if Israel refuses to hold the elections?

['Abd-Rabbuh] If Israel refuses to hold the elections, we have ideas about holding them unilaterally, though it will be necessary to secure adequate international understanding and support.

[al-Qulaybi] What are the next bilateral negotiations' chances of success in light of the Labor Party's accession to power in Israel, especially after Rabin's statements in which he refuses to negotiate the establishment of a Palestinian state, in addition to his unwillingness to negotiate directly with the PLO?

['Abd-Rabbuh] From our experience with the Labor Party, the tender language it uses actually conceals a position which in essence is hostile to the Palestinian people's rights, and in particular to their right to self-determination. True, there are differences between Likud and Labor, but all Zionist parties usually express a willingness to reach an understanding with the Arab countries and to adapt to U.S. policy's requirements and strategic objectives in the region. But all these parties share a position based on denying the Palestinian people their basic rights.

The Labor Party's language is equivocal: To justify continuing the settlements they talk about two kinds of settlement—security settlements and political settlements. And to justify delaying the attainment of a solution they talk about peace—but a peace that is linked to security arrangements.

As far as we are concerned, all kinds of settlement are the same, and we will refuse to become involved in such a

classification. Settlements must be stopped completely in all the occupied territories. Dismantling the settlements and removing them from Palestinian territory is a major topic on the negotiating agenda as part of the arrangements for the transition phase.

Furthermore, the Israeli assertion, repeated now by Rabin and which we have heard during the years of occupation—namely, that peace is linked to security—is an excuse for obstructing peace and enforcing so-called security at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights and of a withdrawal from their occupied territory.

It is we who need security more than the Israelis. It is we who need full, comprehensive, and binding guarantees and arrangements under effective international supervision. We are willing to reach a complete and firm security agreement between us and them under international auspices to guarantee our security and theirs, but on the basis of one fundamental foundation: complete withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, and, first and foremost, Jerusalem. And also dealing with our people on an equal basis to guarantee their excuse of the right to self-determination and independence without any restrictions, conditions, or pressures. [passage omitted]

[al-Qulaybi] How do you explain the Palestinian optimism about the Labor Party's election victory?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We could call it cautious optimism. We should first see the Labor Party's real positions through its practices on the ground and its policy and positions at the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

[al-Qulaybi] Rabin rejected your invitation immediately after his party's victory to hold direct negotiations between the PLO and Israel, but he cited the plan to grant the Palestinians the autonomy stipulated in the Camp David accords while remaining in charge of defense, foreign policy, and settlements. What is your opinion?

['Abd-Rabbuh] As far as we are concerned, transition arrangements mean precisely preparing for the Israeli occupation's complete withdrawal. In the international concept, or even that of the Camp David accords, there are no transition arrangements which include a continuation of the occupation. The PLO invited the Labor Party and its new government to meet and negotiate directly, because we believe that the ostrich policy pursued by the Likud over the past 15 years and by Labor Party governments in the past—that is, denying the Palestinian people's existence, their role, and their leadership—has completely collapsed in the face of realities and the intifadah's achievements.

If they want a real settlement, the door is open to deal directly with the PLO leadership. The meeting that took place between the negotiating Palestinian delegation and the leadership in Amman before the Israeli elections was a message to the Israelis that Shamir's allegations about his achievements concerning separating the Palestinian people in the occupied territories from their leadership are imaginary and false. All the people and their leadership were sending a peace message in the same language to the Israeli public so that they can decide through the elections whether they, too, would respond to the peace call. From now on no one will be able to obstruct this open and clear relationship between the people, the delegation, and the leadership. We are not exaggerating when we say that the peaceful Palestinian policy and the engagement in the peace negotiations—despite some of the conditions which we considered unjust—caused Shamir's government to become isolated and weakened its position in the Israeli public's eyes. At the international level our positive and realistic policy—which is also based on the intifadah and its steadfastness—contributed to the collapse of the Likud government and, consequently, the collapse of its option based on rejecting a settlement and peace. If the Labor Party wants to open a new chapter, we urge it to digest this lesson first. We are not pleading for a meeting with anyone, but we believe that peace is not a favor that they would be doing to the Palestinian people. It is in the interests of both sides. [passage omitted]

PLO Official Views Intra-Palestinian Violence

NC0907160492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 8 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has said there is a need for the national Palestinian forces in the occupied territories to speed up the adoption of the "National Honor Charter," based on the commitment of the Declaration of Palestinian Independence to democracy, pluralism, protection of human rights, and renunciation of any practices that violate them.

In an interview with MENA's correspondent in Tunisia, al-Najjab said it is important to hold a national conference in the occupied territories in which the Hamas Movement and all the religious and national forces will take part to sign this charter, abide by it, stop the war of statements and threats, strengthen national unity, and rally round the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Najjab warned of the dangerous practices in which national and religious forces in the territories have become involved in the name of the intifadah, such as executions without trials, infringement of citizens' rights and interests, interference in their personal affairs, and exercising some sort of repressive authority against the masses, adding that these practices have downgraded the intifadah's popular nature, led to the absence of democratic dealing between all the parties, and revealed attempts to deal violently with the opposite view instead of using democratic dialogue.

Al-Najjab said the aim of popular mass meetings in the occupied Gaza Strip and the various activities in the occupied West Bank was to reject these practices and restore the popular and democratic nature of the intifadah.

He said he hoped the leaderships of Hamas and the other religious forces will reassess their stand, which they recently expressed in statements issued in their name and in which they attacked the mass meetings and the forces that took part in them. He also called on them to heed the voice of the Palestinian people raised at these conferences and to play their role in efforts to end the harmful practices that have taken place throughout the intifadah. He said this is the only way to overcome the difficulties and mobilize all the forces to confront the Israeli occupation and the Israeli Government's attempts to tamper with the domestic Palestinian front.

The PLO Executive Committee member said the leaderships of all the Palestinian groups abroad have the special responsibility of acting to help the intifadah get rid of this grave negative aspect and to implement the relevant resolutions taken by the Palestine National Council at its recent meeting in Tunis.

He said that gambling on splitting the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories has not stopped. He said the peace process has opened new scope for interaction between the two and for achieving integration between them in the struggle for achieving our national objectives. He said that more work is needed to strengthen and develop this unity to serve our objectives and to answer the developments we are witnessing.

Residents Urged To Pursue 'Democratic Dialogue'

TA0807183292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Democratic Dialogue Is the Right Way and the Guarantee for Addressing All Problems"]

[Text] One of the positive manifestations two days ago was the release of a statement in the Gaza Strip that affirmed adherence to the principle of democratic dialogue between all parties on the basis of a unified commitment to ideological pluralism. This statement, which came as a result of many earlier appeals and statements, calls for a joint agreement on the principle of dialogue instead of the infighting that is fragmenting our internal front and undermining all our political and militant achievements at the most crucial and serious stage. The ink on this statement had hardly dried and the statement been published in our local papers, when news agencies carried painful and regrettable reports indicating that the infighting and the threats were continuing.

How is that possible, and how should we understand and interpret that phenomenon in order to address it quickly?

We shall avoid talking about foreign "conspiracies" being hatched against our people everywhere, because usually we hang all our afflictions on this traditional clothes rack and ignore the "internal" reasons. If the terrifying term is correct, we are now "conspiring against ourselves."

Will we be pushed into destroying ourselves to the applause and shouts of "the other party," which will be very pleased by such self-destruction?

By no means should our Palestinian people do so. They are experienced in struggle, can be genuinely and seriously inspired by their national heritage, and are guided by their long historical experience.

On the basis of that great hope, we say that democratic dialogue between all factions in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and everywhere on all levels is the right way to solve problems and settle differences. It is also the only right way for reaching an agreement to deal in a committed and responsible manner with this new political phase.

Democratic dialogue is not just a slogan or a banner benefiting this or that side of our single Palestinian body. It is neither a passing cry nor a way of calming tempers, but the only realistic approach for achieving the rationale of the single trench. All of us are, in fact, in that single trench, irrespective of our different views, opinions, and ideas.

Even though infighting might begin in a small and insignificant way, it will lead to destruction. We have learned this from other nations. Regret will help no one who does not learn.

We definitely are learners, because we possess the adequate qualifications, the great civilization, and the joint capability for learning.

Algeria

Ghozali Resigns, Cites 'Political Logic'

LD0807123692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The Higher State Council today accepted the resignation of Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the head of the government, and entrusted Mr. Abdessalam Belaid with forming a new government. Mr. Ghozali justified his resignation in a letter to the council, stating: My resignation is based on political logic. It stems from clear lessons drawn from recent experience and meets the requirements of the hour. In fact, it constitutes political action that simply conveys my will to contribute to the success of your mission.

The head of the government has also officially tendered his resignation from the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front [FLN]. In the resignation letter addressed to [FLN Secretary General] Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the head of the government said: I hope you will take note of my withdrawal as of 7 July from the Central Committee of the FLN.

APS, which is the source of this news item, received a copy today of Mr. Ahmed Ghozali's letter of resignation from the FLN Central Committee.

State Council's Statement

LD0807124592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] We have just received a statement from the Higher State Council which says:

The Higher State Council held a meeting today, 8 July 1992, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi and received Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who has submitted the resignation of his government. On this occasion, the Higher State Council saluted the work done by Mr. Ghozali since his appointment as the head of the government and the work done by each member of the government. The government of Mr. Ghozali discharged its mission with competence and loyalty at the most difficult moment in the history of the country.

The statement of the Higher State Council continues: The resignaton of the government of Mr. Ghozali comes in the wake of the changes affecting the Higher State Council and within the framework of the political logic that should henceforth prevail. It permits the launching of sound political traditions in relations among the highest institutions of the state.

Pending the formation of the new government, the Higher State Council has asked the government of Mr. Ghozali to remain to tackle the daily issues.

Belaid To Form New Government

LD0807125192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The following is another statement issued by the Higher State Council:

At its meeting on 8 July 1992, under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi, the Higher State Council received Mr. Abdessalam Belaid, and charged him, according to the provisions of Article 74 of the Constitution, with forming a new government.

Abdessalam Belaid will submit the list of members of his government to the Higher State Council within the next few days.

This statement was the second issued by the Higher State Council.

Ghozali Praises Boudiaf

LD0807201692 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] [Announcer] After 13 months as head of government, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali resigned today. This morning he met the members of his government to inform them of his resignation, its circumstances, and his reasons. Over to Fatiha Jaida.

[Jaida] After wishing every success to Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, Ghozali talked at length about Mr. Boudiaf, may he rest in peace.

Boudiaf disturbed people a great deal because he was a man of the past, of hope and youth, a man of the homeland and humanity. That is why a actual war was launched against him and against the government of Algeria, Mr. Ghozali said.

Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali announced his resignation to the members of his government this morning in the prime minister's office.

In a message to the chairman of the Higher State Council, he said that Ali Kafi needs a prime minister whom he has appointed and whose government enjoys full credibility at home and abroad, a strong government capable of countering anyone who wishes to destabilize the state to achieve power, and a government able to revive the economy and solve the problems of citizens, especially those of youths.

[Begin Ghozali recording] This is a way to introduce traditions in our country. We should plant, each official should plant, traditions in our country, commendable traditions in the political field and in political practice. [end recording]

I therefore discharge the trust with which I was charged, Ghozali concluded. Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali leaves the government after having led it for 13 months.

New Prime Minister Profiled

LD0807204492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The man who has been called the father of the Algerian industry, Mr. Belaid Abdesselam, is today entrusted with forming a new government following the resignation of Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali. Let us get more acquainted with Belaid Abdesselam. Here is Mohamed Abbes:

[Abbes] Mr. Belaid Abdesselam was born in 1928 in the small village of Dehamcha, near Ain Kebira, in the province of Setif. As a high school student, he joined the People's Party and was imprisoned for a year on charges of participation in the incidents of 8 May 1945. He studied medicine in the capital, Algiers, and in Grenoble, France. He led the association of North African students and supported the centralists against the supporters of Messali.

After the revolution of November 1954, he helped establish the National Union of Algerian Muslim students [UGEMA] and joined the ranks of the revolution in Algiers, and then joined the leaders abroad. He was twice entrusted with cultural affairs in ministries in the government of the late Abbas Ferhat in 1958, and was then appointed to the office of Benyoucef Benkhedda. Along with the late Abderrahmane Fares, he took charge of economic affairs at the provisional executive body that emerged from the Evian agreement.

He then set up the company Sonatrach. On the day after 19 June 1965 [the day after Boumediene's coup against Ben Bella], the late Boumediene appointed him minister of industry and energy. He thus undertook huge projects and was named the father of Algerian industrialiazation.

The day after the death of the late Boumediene, Belaid became a member of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Political Bureau, but gradually withdrew from political life. He criticized the neglect of his project of (?valuation) of Algerian gas. He also criticized the policy of restructuring national companies because it took away from their efficiency.

Belaid returned to the ranks of the FLN party in 1989 as a member of the FLN Central Committee, but left it a year later. Abdesselam Belaid is an advocate of austerity to face the economic crisis.

Ghozali Resignation Discussed

LD0807142192 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] [Announcer] Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali resigned this morning. Did this come as a surprise?

[Correspondent Anne Dissez] It is a surprise, but then it is not. There were numerous rumors about Sid Ahmed Ghozali's resignation. There were also rumors about other ministers. It is worth mentioning again that one week before his death, Chairman Boudiaf had confirmed and reiterated his trust in Sid Ahmed Ghozali during a televised address. However, it was already being reported that Ghozali was about to resign. Therefore, it is a surprise [as heard]; in other words, I believe that this can only aggravate the political climate in Algeria, but it is not really a big surprise.

[Announcer] So, Anne, it is Abdessalam Belaid who is taking over. The man is not unknown. I believe he occupied the post of minister of industry and energy for 12 years.

[Dissez] Indeed. He is said to be the father of Algeria's industrialization under President Boumedienne. He was twice industry minister under Boumedienne and above all he is what one can call the mentor and father of Sid Ahmed Ghozali. In some ways, it is the father succeeding the son. Belaid is said to have trained Ghozali, particularly at the head of Sonatrach. Ghozali often drew his inspiration from Belaid in making decisions.

Abdessalam Belaid is a man who is fairly forthright and fairly authoritarian and he has always expressed, in economic terms, his great trust in oil. There was much talk about him recently because he uttered a terrible phrase in which he said that he was in favor of a war economy to bring Algeria out of the crisis. When questioned about this war economy, he replied that he meant different management of the debt and different management of relations with the International Monetary Fund. Therefore, we believe that an economic turning point could well take place in Algeria now.

[Announcer] You said that it is the father succeeding the son. Does that mean that a strong man, a stronger man than Sid Ahmed Ghozali, is now emerging at the top in Algeria?

[Dissez] Sid Ahmed Ghozali's morale was certainly very affected by the death of Mohamed Boudiaf, but we cannot say that he was weak as the head of government. Will Belaid be stronger? I believe that the coming weeks will tell, for it is a bit too premature to say.

[Announcer] Are we witnessing a drastic change? Could there be, for instance, a new development vis-a-vis the Islamists?

[Dissez] Everything is still in the air and presently nothing can help us determine one way or another. It is far too early.

[Announcer] Could this new prime minister receive a warm welcome from the opposition, such as the Socialist Forces Front and Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria?

[Dissez] His appointment has just been announced and once again it is too early to say. We must at least wait for the next few hours this afternoon, if not until tomorrow morning.

[Announcer] Thank you. Naturally, you are following this affair very closely for us and you will give us further reports in subsequent news bulletins on RFI.

Ghozali Accuses Officials of Destablization

LD0807204192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] [Prime Minister] Sid Ahmed Ghozali has spoken about the forces who are trying to harm the state's stability, whom he described as more ferocious and destructive. They are the very forces, as he put it, whose filthy souls are working behind the scenes, from positions they have attained in the administration, the economy, in speculation, in the mass media, and in politics.

The application of the policy of disinformation in the form of lies, fabrications, and organized rumors; switching cards and falsification; shrouding matters with ambiguity; creating an atmosphere of tension and provoking strikes—all of which signifies deep corruption of nature and derives its existence from a morbid clinging to the reigns of power.

He added that based on what has been mentioned, you could, Mr. Chairman, understand the magnitude of the challenges that face you. However, the potential for successfully fighting them is available.

My resignation, Mr. Ghozali said, which has political logic and which stems from the clear lessons drawn from recent experience, and which meets the requirements of the hour represents a political action that in fact expresses my determination to contribute toward the success of your mission.

My departure does not in any way lessen my loyal support for your work, nor my full solidarity with the Higher State Council, the National Army, or the Algerian people.

Prosecutor To Reveal Investigation Results

LD0807135892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The investigation into the assassination of the late President Mohamed Boudiaf continues to preoccupy the public, which awaits the results of the national investigation commission and the statements of the general prosecutor of Annaba Judicial District. Colleague Rabi' Beas reports from the site on the emerging facts of the case:

[Beas] The judicial authorities in Annaba are continuing their inquiry into the assassination of late President Boudiaf. Ten days after the assassination of one of the symbols of the revolution, the citizenry continues to wonder and search for the truth, the whole truth, and the unveiling of the perpetrators and planners of this criminal operation which targeted the late Boudiaf while visiting Annaba.

To ascertain the latest information from the judicial investigation and to follow up on the first radio talk we presented last Saturday, this morning we contacted the general prosecutor, who indicated that the investigation has uncovered new emerging facts. However, he has asked us to give him more time and he affirmed that he will grant an interview on the new facts. We have made an appointment with him this evening at 1700.

Awaiting the fresh information from the ongoing investigation of the assassination of President Boudiaf, there is an unconfirmed report indicating that the investigation will be referred to a military court. Also, according to unconfirmed reports, the national commission charged with the investigation installed by the chairman of the Higher State Council is now in Annaba.

This evening you can hear the interview which will include fresh developments as the general prosecutor has promised.

Interviewed on Developments

LD0807203892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Interview with unidentified public prosecutor of Annaba Court by correspondent Rabie Daas; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Prosecutor] The Gendarmerie is about to complete its preliminary investigation into the criminal assassination of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, which led to the arrest of Lembarek Boumaarafi, whose identity has been conclusively established.

Although there is at present no question about the identity of the person who directly carried out the criminal act, the real reasons behind the assassination, and its aims, are still unclear.

The file of the investigation should be handed over to the attorney general at Annaba Court this afternoon by the Judiciary Police. The attorney general should then order a suitable follow up of the case in light of latest developments in the case.

[Daas] Your Excellency Public Prosecutor, you took the killer back to the scene of the assassination for questioning. What happened?

[Prosecutor] Members the Judiciary Police and I traveled to the scene of the assassination to try and ascertain on the spot the behavior and conduct of those who were present at the scene of the crime.

[Daas] There are unconfirmed reports, Mr. Public Prosecutor, that others were involved in the assassination. What is your comment?

[Prosecutor] No, as far as our investigation is concerned, I can assure you that only one person has been arrested. However, if others are involved in the crime, our investigation will uncover them. Thus, to summarize our

position: It is not possible at this stage to say that there are others who might have taken part in the crime.

[Daas] Among those called in for questioning, Mr. Public Prosecutor, was the killer's father. What did he have to say?

[Prosecutor] If the killer's father was summoned by the Judicial Police, it was primarily in his capacity as the killer's next of kin, as his father. The person being investigated is his son, and therefore he might have something to say that would be of interest to the investigators.

[Daas] Your Excellency Public Prosecutor, there are reports that the investigation might be transferred to a military court. Is this true or not?

[Prosecutor] This is a possibility. It is likely that the case will be transferred to the military court.

[Daas] Your Excellency, Public Prosecutor, when will the investigation be completed?

[Prosecutor] As I told you, the file of the investigation is about to be completed by the Judicial Police. We are about to hand the file over to the attorney general, who should then be able to take appropriate measures.

Ali Kafi Receives U.S. State Department Official

LD0807211792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi today received Mr. Edward P. Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

Following the audience, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs made the following statement to Malik el-Oulmi: The United States is closely following the ongoing developments in Algeria, a country with which we have close relations. The United States will all efforts by Algeria intended to establish democratic institutions, a multiparty system, and economic reforms.

Egypt

Cabinet Approves Laws To Confront Terrorism

NC0807191092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The cabinet held a seven-hour meeting today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. It approved a draft bill amending the penal codes, procedures in handling criminal cases, secret accounts, and the law on arms and ammunition. These amendments are meant to confront acts of violence and terrorism. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that by this approval, the cabinet signaled that these amendments must be made because terrorist crimes seriously affect society. This legislation will ensure that all crimes that disturb society's security and stability are confronted and addressed.

The cabinet discussed at length crimes of terrorism and their development in Egypt and the wave of terrorism confronting various countries of the world. Egypt had been free from these crimes for a long time. Dr. Sidqi declared at the meeting that the national responsibility the government shoulders before society dictates that it confront acts of violence and terrorism meant to terrorize and frighten society and impose custodianship on the public through the use of violence and illegal means striking at stability. He noted that a minority exploits the legislative void and defies and attacks police personnel tasked with protecting society's security. He said that the government is confronting and addressing this problem within the framework of law and the Constitution, deterrence, and firmness. Sidqi said that the acts of violence by a minority of outlaws run counter to democracy and freedom, which entail respect for the freedom of others, their views and creeds, and preserving national unity and society's security and stability, politically, socially, ideologically, and economically. Dr. Sidqi said that the emergency law works in tandem with this legislative amendment.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that Justice Minister Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr pointed out that a committee composed of university professors, a number of 'ulema, judges, and experts specialized in combating terrorism participated in formulating this legislation. The justice minister said that the new legislation is based on speedy measures and gives powers to the law enforcement men within the framework of the Constitution and law, particularly as the penal code and procedures for handling criminal cases in Egypt do not contain provisions to address terrorist crimes apart from ordinary or political crimes. He noted that the emergency law is temporary and is not designed to address terrorism and is not a substitute for this legislation. He said that terrorist crimes imply preparation and also have repercussions. Terrorist crimes take various forms entailing the use of violence and aggression against citizens' lives.

The information minister pointed out that the cabinet reviewed the domestic situation in light of a report submitted by the interior minister. The report outlined the security organs' confrontation of the acts of violence against society and individual aggressive acts against the police. The information minister said that during the discussions the cabinet members praised the security organs' role in protecting society and preserving the people's lives, stability, and property. The cabinet emphasized the need for decisive and firm action to confront anyone breaking the law and using violence to terrorize society. It has been decided to refer these new legislative amendments to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

People's Assembly Passes New Agrarian Law

NC0807142192 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 2-8 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] At 2 a.m. on 24 June, the People's Assembly gave final approval to a new law governing relations between landlords and tenants of agricultural land. Despite the objections of 10 leftist and Nasserist deputies, the new law was passed following a 19-hour heated debate, spread over three days. The assembly thus dealt the final blow to the agrarian reform law which was passed after the 1952 revolution and was considered one of the new government's greatest achievements.

The new law raised the rental value of cultivated land from seven to 22 times the equivalent of the real estate tax. More important, it stated that all lease contracts of agricultural land, which were open-ended under the old law, would be terminated by the end of the agricultural year 1996/1997. Subsequently, relations between the land owner and tenant will be governed by the provisions of the civil code already in force.

If the owner wishes to sell his land before the expiry of the five-year interim period, the tenant will be entitled to compensation equal to 40 times the tax value for each of the remaining years.

A provision added to the new law at the insistence of some deputies obliges the state to provide the tenant, whose contract is terminated, with alternative lodgings for the home which he is evacuating. Another provision gives the same tenant priority in taking possession of desert land reclaimed by the state.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi described the new law as a "revolution of reform" because "it will correct the course of the agricultural sector which is responsible for 35 per cent of the national product."

The new law, he said, aims at realizing "stability and justice" and provides adequate protection for tenants.

Dr Fathi Surur, the Assembly Speaker, described the new law as "one aspect of the economic liberalization programme."

During the debate, several deputies raised the problem of tenants who had established their homes on the land they rent and which they are certain to lose if the lease contract is terminated. Consequently, majority leader Kamal al-Shadhili filed a motion to add two provisions to the new law. They are:

Applying the provisions of this law should not undermine the legal or contractual rules governing the occupancy of houses attached to the leased agricultural lands. If the termination of the contract results in the tenant evacuating the land on which he lives—and if it is his sole home and the home of those whom he supports—the state guarantees that it will provide him with other lodgings in the same area. He should not be evicted until he is provided with the other accommodation.

Tenants whose contracts are terminated will have priority in possessing desert land reclaimed by the state in accordance with the provisions and procedures contained in Article 14 of law no. 143 for 1981.

Before the assembly approved the two articles proposed by al-Shadhili, Prime Minister Sidqi said: "I hope that nobody would assume that the objective of this law is to provide the owners with a sword to apply to the necks of the tenants. The law is aimed at realizing justice and balance between the two sides.

"We should not forget that we are a socially integrated society in which it is inconceivable for an owner to evict a tenant simply because a law had been passed," he said. "We should not forget that there are merciful people who waived aside their claim to the houses which the tenant built on their own land. The state, for its part, will work to provide homes to the tenants who evacuate the land following the interim period. The state is aware that this is the only possible solution."

The assembly approved two other amendments proposed by al-Shadhili. The first provided for the termination of the present tenancy contracts at the end of the agricultural year 1996/1997, following which relations between the two sides would be governed by the civil code. The second stated that if the owner wishes to sell his land before the end of the interim period, the tenant has the option of buying it at the price to be agreed upon by the two sides. Alternatively, the tenant should evacuate the land in return for the payment of compensation equal to 40 times the tax value for each year of the remaining balance of the five-year interim period. Before its amendment, the original text had made the compensation equal to 200 times the tax value.

Speaker Surur commented that the 1952 agrarian reform law was an achievement at the time, "but the new law is also an achievement for Egypt, which is making political and economic advances."

'Amr Musa Welcomes 'Important' G-7 Statement

NC0807113192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1114 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described as very important the statement issued by the seven major industrialized countries at their summit.

Musa said that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is making a detailed study of the statement before Egypt announces its policy on each issue, adding: The issue of Serbia and Bosnia-Hercegovina is undoubtedly the most important one included in the statement, because it is an urgent issue along with the security and cooperation issues and economic questions.

Musa added that the result of the study will be announced within 24 hours so that we may act according to it.

Speaker Reiterates No Assassination Attempt

NC0807110592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur denied a news agency report [not further identified] that he was the target of an assassination attempt.

He told MENA he heard a shot and a commotion in front of his house at 1030 today, then the guard told him not to move. He said he looked through the peephole in the door and saw a commotion outside. He contacted the director of the State Security Investigation Department, who immediately dispatched a group of officers and guards to protect the house.

Apparently, a bullet was fired inadvertently from a police guard's pistol. The incident is now being investigated.

Dr. Surur left home for his office in the People's Assembly at 1115 to receive a foreign ambassador.

'Nasserist' Parties Merge, Seek Dialogue

NC0907092192 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 2-8 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Darwish]

[Text] A Nasserist faction, said to include several thousand members, and led by Farid 'Abd-al-Karim, a one time high official of the Arab Socialist Union (ASU), has enrolled under the banner of Dia'-al-Din Dawud's Nasserist Democratic Party, which won legal status only recently.

In announcing the merger, 'Abd-al-Karim said the Nasserists will be represented on the official forum by one party only advocating Nasserist ideology.

According to certain political observers, however, by joining hands with Dawud's faction, 'Abd-al-Karim was not seeking to unify Nasserist ranks. Rather, his motive appears to be a desire to take over the democratic Nasserist Party.

'Abd-al-Karim was a high official of the Arab Socialist Union (ASU), Egypt's sole political party under the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. After al-Sadat's rise to power, 'Abd-al-Karim was dismissed and sent to jail, along with other Sadat opponents, on charges of conspiracy to overthrow the president. Dawud was also a high ASU official and held the Social Affairs portfolio under Nasir.

The observers believe that 'Abd-al-Karim hit upon the idea of opening the dialogue with the Muslim Brotherhood, the arch rivals of the Nasserists, as a pretext for bringing to a head the conflict over the leadership of the Democratic Nasserist Party between him and Dawud.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM WEEKLY, 'Abd-al-Karim said the Brotherhood has moved during the past few years closer to the Nasserists' position on two main issues. The first is that "America is the principal enemy of the nation," he said. The second is that Arab nationalism, which the Nasserists advocate, "does not run counter to Islamicist ideology. This is a matter which we should accept, encourage, and even utilise," he said.

'Abd-al-Karim, however, did not gloss over other basic differences between the Nasserists and the Brotherhood. These centre mainly on the question of socialism, advocated by the Nasserists and opposed by the Brotherhood, and the meaning and context of social justice. The two are also divided on the issue of the achievements of the 1952 Revolution.

'Abd-al-Karim said his faction will not open a dialogue with the Brotherhood unilaterally but will wait until the Democratic Nasserist Party becomes politically active "and then push it in the direction of the dialogue."

'Abd-al-Karim denied that the ranks of the Nasserists were torn by schisms. "There are no objective, or even personal, schisms within the leadership of the Nasserists," he said. Asked about speculation on an impending power struggle between him and Dawud, 'Abd-al-Karim said: "These reports have no basis in truth. How can there be a struggle between me and him? I was the one who chose him from among our own ranks to be the founder of the Democratic Nasserist Party."

But 'Abd-al-Karim objected to a delay in opening the doors of membership of the Democratic Nasserist Party and also to the Imposition of an LE [Egyptian pounds] 3 membership fee. "We are the party of the workers and the peasants, the deprived classes and limited income brackets," he said.

His central objection centred on the delay in forming a parliamentary bloc to represent the party within the People's Assembly. "Twenty-one deputies have applied to join this bloc but it has not been formed until now for reasons unknown to me," he said.

'Abd-al-Karim affirmed his determination to serve as an "active member of the Democratic Nasserist Party. I fully believe in the change of party positions and of leaders. We are ready to merge completely in the party under Dawud's leadership or any other leadership that may be chosen," he said.

Cairo Police Hunt 'Extremists'; Security Tight

NC0907065892 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Security forces have stepped up their patrols and searches at the entrances to greater Cairo and the new towns in the past few days in an effort to apprehend wanted extremist elements who have participated in recent acts of violence and murder.

The security forces have set up checkpoints at the entrances to 15 May and al-Salam towns to search private cars, trucks, and taxis and check the identity of the passengers. The police have stormed some houses suspected of harboring fugitive terrorists. They have also tightened security at some foreign embassies, consulates, and churches. They have increased surveillance at cinemas and theaters to prevent any attack on them.

Sixty-Four 'Extremists' Detained

NC0907071892 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Jul 92 p 1

[Report from Qina by 'Abdallah Muhammad]

[Text] Security forces arrested 64 extremists in Qina and Luxor before they were able to commit any terrorist acts. Plainclothes officers searched houses and found one firearm, some knives and iron chains, and a large quantity of religious books advocating extremism.

The state Security Investigation Department received secret reports that some members of extremist groups, wanted for killing a police detective, had fled from Luxor and Isna. The reports indicated that these extremists intended to carry out terrorist acts in Qina and Luxor. A massive search was mounted to apprehend the extremists. It was led by Major General Husayn Mahbub, commander of the Qina Security Department; Maj. Gen. Muhsin al-Sinbati, his deputy; and Maj. Gen. Muhsin Majdi, an inspector with the Interior Ministry's Investigation Department. The search lasted five hours and resulted in the arrest of 64 prominent extremists in Qina Governorate.

Need To 'Liquidate' Dayrut Terrorists Stressed

NC0907074192 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Asyut—A high-level security source has stressed the need to completely liquidate the terrorist group operating in Dayrut. The source urged the extremists to surrender to the security authorities and face trial.

The source stressed that there are strict, high-level orders to shoot any extremist who tries to escape or resist arrest. He explained that recent events have led the Interior Ministry to alter its plan. The ministry had decided to reduce the security presence in Dayrut a few hours before the recent clashes took place.

Meanwhile, the prosecutor visited Dayrut Central Hospital yesterday to hear the testimony of 'Izzat 'Abd-al-Hamid Ibrahim, commander of the extremists' military wing, who was injured by police gunfire the day before yesterday. The prosecutor also heard the testimony of Ashraf Muhammad Faraj, a soldier who was wounded by extremist gunfire while guarding the Anglican church in Dayrut. The prosecutor did not hear the testimony of another soldier, Khalid Mahmud 'Abd-al-Majid, because of his serious condition. He was hit in the back by the extremist fire, which caused ruptures and bleeding in his abdomen.

Major General Hilmi al-Faqi, commander of public security, denied that clashes occurred between police and extremists during the night the day before yesterday. He also denied that a church had been burned in Kudyat Mubarak.

Asyut Governor Hasan al-Alfli has decided to provide the citizens with all the needed commodities in view of present conditions.

Muslims Encouraged To Smuggle Weapons to Bosnia

NC0807071192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—In today's editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that the Serbian butchers have demonstrated they are clever students of the Zionist terrorist gangs that operated in the late 1940's. These gangs worked to empty Palestine of its Arab population by committing a number of ugly massacres in small villages; the inhabitants of nearby villages rushed to escape and save their lives, leaving all their possessions behind.

The paper says that recent Serbian acts have been similar. Leaders of the Serbian gangs have been using terrorism for months against Bosnia-Hercegovina's Muslims. They want to force the citizens of this small republic to cede their houses and possessions and leave their country so that Serbia can annex it. This odd method challenges every standard and law.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say: The Serbian butchers sign cease-fires so they can have time to implement the plot concocted by Belgrade, and then violate them a few hours later. The suspicious complacency of the international community has only encouraged them.

The paper adds: The decision to send Egyptian troops to join the UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina is a positive step toward helping the victims of Serbian aggression. If most of the major countries are still content to be spectators, the Islamic countries can help the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina effectively by organizing secret operations to smuggle whatever weapons they can send, so that these Muslims can defend themselves against invaders who refuse to halt their aggression and return to their homes.

Donations for Bosnian Muslims Noted

NC0807111492 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 2-8 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Khalid Dawud]

[Excerpt] Long queues of veiled women and bearded men stood in front of a window at the Doctors Syndicate to pay donations for Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina,

who have been subject to fierce attacks by the Serbian Army and militia over the past two months.

Dr. Anwar Shihatah, treasurer of the Doctors Syndicate, said that $1 million have been collected by the Humanitarian Aid Committee (HAC), "which we have formed to help Muslims suffering disasters anywhere in the world." Shihatah added that a delegation representing the syndicate has travelled to Bosnia to help provide medical services for the victims of continuous shelling there.

Syndicates of engineers, lawyers, pharmacists, and the opposition Islamic-oriented Socialist Labour Party are all taking part in the campaign, arousing religious feelings and warning of the "Western offensive" against Islam. "Muslims all over the world: Your new position on the map of the new world order is slaughter, extinction or conversion from your religion. You should know that your turn will come next, after the killing of Muslims in Palestine, Burma, Kashmir, Thailand, and Bosnia-Hercegovina," said one of the advertisements paid for by the Engineers Syndicate, controlled like the other major syndicates by the Muslim Brotherhood. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Comments on Continued U.S. Sanctions

LD0807214692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Washington, 8 Jul (JANA)—U.S. President George Bush has announced the extension of mandatory economic sanctions that have been imposed by the U.S. Government against Libya for years. He was quoted in his message to the U.S. Congress as saying that Libya still constitutes a particular threat to U.S. national security and to U.S. foreign policy. The JANA political affairs editor has commented on this, saying: Such a decision, which is being adopted at a time when the unjust Resolution 748 has imposed an air blockade as well as other mandatory sanctions against the great Jamahiriyah, indicates that there is a premeditated intention to harm the Libyan people and hinder their development plans and social progress. It is, however, a measure contradictory to recognized international charters regulating relations between countries and peoples, including humanitarian ones, which have been embodied in the UN Charter, urging fruitful cooperation between countries as well as allowing understanding and dialogue to prevail when resolving disputes.

The editor added: Such an escalation in the imposition of mandatory sanctions against Libya should urge world public opinion to express solidarity with such a small country. The world should also shoulder its responsibility by standing by it so that the latter might exercise its legitimate right to progress and prosperity for its people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Predicts 'Violent' Arab Coups

NC0807104992 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Report by Nadim Kawash: "Al-Qadhdhafi Predicts Arab Turmoil, Says West Wants Him To Stay"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 8 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has predicted several Arab leaders will be removed in violent coups but said he would stay because he is favoured by the United States and its Western allies.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) magazine AL-SHURUQ, Al-Qadhdhafi also denied Libya was involved in terrorism and said he wanted a peaceful end to the Lockerbie crisis with the West.

"Arab impotence is comprehensive—political, economic and military," he said in the interview, obtained by AFP on Wednesday ahead of its publication on Thursday.

"The revolution is approaching. Violence and anger are now inevitable and the flood is coming. Coups will begin and this is certain. The existing governments are finished. No one defends them any more and they no longer have the justification to stay."

Al-Qadhdhafi, angry with Arab states for supporting United Nations sanctions against Libya over Lockerbie, did not elaborate but told the Arabic language weekly that riots by Muslim fundamentalists were the beginning of turmoil.

"Fundamentalist groups are a small example of what will happen. New groups of students, military men, workers, peasants, socialists and nationalists will follow them on the same path," he said.

But al-Qadhdhafi said Libya would not be involved in such actions nor does it intend to allow Muslim radicalism.

"Libya has never been behind any terrorist act and would not seek the overthrow of any regime," he said.

"They (Western states) might hate Libya but after their experiences with the regimes of the region, they now know the Libyan regime contributes to stability in the area. They realise it is in their interest that the Libyan regime stay. This is what now governs the West's ties with Libya."

Al-Qadhdhafi's comments contradicted recent statements by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that the real objective of the Western campaign against Tripoli was to remove the Libyan leader, whom they accuse of supporting terrorism.

The United States, Britain and France were behind a U.N Security Council resolution imposing an air and arms embargo against Libya for its refusal to hand over

two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am American plane which exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland killing 270 people.

On Tuesday, President George Bush prolonged Washington's economic sanctions against Libya by another six months on the grounds it still poses a threat to U.S national security.

Al-Qadhdhafi told AL-SHURUQ the two Lockerbie suspects were innocent and it was not in Washington's interest that they be tried by a U.S court.

"Every one knows it is more a political than a criminal charge. It will be a scandal that after all this furor, the American judicial system proves their innocence. There is no interest for the U.S that the two are tried in the United States," he said.

"Regarding Britain, it is different. It will tell the world the incident occurred on its territory and it has brought the suspects, tried them and their innocence was proved. This is a proof of the justice and impartiality of the British judicial system."

Al-Qadhdhafi said he did not know where the two suspects would be tried when asked how the United Nations or the Arab League would take over the case as proposed by the Libyan parliament.

"No one knows the answer," he said. "but I can say that the atmosphere is now right for understanding. No one has the desire any more for escalation or retaliation or deviating from the U.N way and legal means."

Morocco

Hassan Interviewed on Mideast Peace, Israel

LD0807093792 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Jul 92

["Text" of an interview with King Hassan II by reporters Kravetz and Stephen Smith, and LIBERATION director Serge July at the royal court in Rabat; date not given; published by Paris LIBERATION on 7 July—read by announcer]

[Text] As we announced, His Majesty King Hassan II gave an exclusive press interview to the French paper LIBERATION, which it published today. In addition to issues of internal policy and his reaction to the assassination of Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf, His Majesty King Hassan II dealt with the Middle East peace negotiations and the Israeli elections, as well as the relations between Morocco and France and Morocco and the EEC.

His Majesty covered in detail the reasons which prompted him to announce the organization of electoral consultations throughout the national territory from Tangiers to (Lagouira), the possibility of changes in power, and the necessity for the government to take charge after the election of the duties of dealing with the situation, with the necessary determination.

The interview was held at the royal court in Rabat with His Majesty the King by Kravetz, a journalist who is an expert in Arab affairs, and Mr. Stephen Smith, a journalist specializing in African affairs. These two journalists accompanied the director of the daily, Mr. Serge July.

[Reporter] Mohamed Boudiaf was a guest of Morocco for a long time. We would like to know before anything else your feelings following his assassination.

[Hassan] Contrary to what is believed, I met Chairman Boudiaf only three times in my life. I never met him during his stay in Morocco and he never asked to meet me. I did not try to meet him. He lived freely in Morocco, and was free in his beliefs and work. I insist on stressing this to show that I never drag Morocco's guests into problems or differences that might occur between us and others.

As for my reaction to the Boudiaf assassination, I can only condemn it. It looks to me like an execution. It is not the action of a madman who acted individually, but an operation which was meticulously planned. In any case, I cannot imagine how it would have been possible for matters to be any different. Chairman Boudiaf, as I know him, was a man who was against compromises unless in necessary cases which could be dictated to him by history. He did not know the meaning of the word connivance. If he could not carry out a mission he set for himself, he would have asked for relinquishing power. He would not have relinquished it without officially clarifying the reason for doing so. The thing he would have clarified in such a case would have undoubtedly embarrassed many.

[Reporter] You have announced elections are to be held shortly throughout Morocco, including the Western Sahara. Does that mean that the referendum due to be held under UN supervision is no longer an issue?

[Hassan] The problem should not be tackled from that corner. When we asked the International Court of Justice for its consultative view, it decreed that there were bonds of allegiance between Morocco and the Sahara. Unfortunately, the concept of allegiance is not known in Roman Law, although it is very important in Islamic traditions and in Morocco. From that premise, I organized the Green March, the results of which are known to all. Then there was the Madrid Tripartite Agreement which was approved by the United Nations, which, in turn, allowed me to hold the 1977 and the 1984 elections from Tangiers down to (Lagouira). When we asked to hold the referendum, which we still consider as corroborative, it was my view that, out of respect for United Nations efforts, we should not give the impression that what we gave with the right hand, we took back with the left. It followed that I deferred the elections that were supposed to be held two years ago. But now, we cannot remain waiting. Domestic problems and the need for selecting people who will face up to the challenges of the

21st century require popular consultation which cannot be deferred indefinitely. Our respect for the United Nations has become harmful to Morocco's profound interests. This referendum should have been held in May. I informed the United Nations and Mr. Perez de Cuellar of that at the time. But when nothing loomed over the horizon, I decided to hold elections similar to their two predecessors, an attitude which must not be perceived as an act of defiance or provocation designed to undermine due respect to the United Nations.

[Reporter] Morocco will this year see several referendum and election consultations. Would you give us some clarifications in this regard?

[Hassan] Indeed, Morocco will have three consultations: the first relates to the referendum on the constitution, the second is on the municipal and vocational elections, and the third relates to the parliament.

[Reporter] What is the timetable for these consultations?

[Hassan] We are in the process of deciding it. According to our constitution, the parliament should be opened on the second Friday of October, but we will not be able to respect this deadline. The process of registration, on the vote registers, must be completed first. This has been started and will be over in August. This will need some time as we had reduced the age of majority from 21 to 20 years. Moreover, fifteen days have to be given for possible appeals, and we are eager that this process will not suffer any blemish, either in form or content.

[Reporter] This would mean that the whole operation might be over by the end of the year?

[Hassan] Indeed, before then. The parliament could meet in November, God willing, to discuss the finance law bill.

[Reporter] Opposition parties were invited to participate in the preparation for constitutional reform, could there be talk here, of consultations?

[Hassan] The matter is not related to consultations. I told them that we now have domestic problems that have to be settled, and if you have suggestions to put to me on constitutional reforms, I would like to know what they are. I will analyze them in the light of experience and, especially, within the context of the coming century. I have, to the maximum extent, taken the submitted proposals into consideration.

[Reporter] Within the four points contained in the national charter presented to you by the opposition parties, these parties insist, specifically, on the formation of a government representing the elected majority. Are you in agreement on this point ?

[Hassan] Through all the three constitutions, I have always governed with majority parties in the parliament.

[Reporter] Then what are the parties aiming at by this insistence?

[Hassan] This question must be put to them.

[Reporter] These parties also demand the provision of full guarantees that would ensure entirely proper voting procedures.

[Hassan] These guarantees will be provided and we are in the process of working together so that these elections are conducted within a framework of full transparency, because this would be in the interest of all. So, what is the king's role? Despite the fact that in this election neither the person nor the function of the king are in question, the role of the king is exactly the articulation of the national will. This will, then, has to be identified and this is an important matter for me and for the future.

[Reporter] If the parties are insisting so much on the provision of guarantees for the soundness of the voting, would not this also mean that the former elections were not always exemplary?

[Hassan] I do not wish to enter into an argument about this, but I would like to make clear to you that most of the municipalities in the Kingdom's large cities are run by parties that are not part of the government. Someone could say that the Moroccan elections were not the best possible elections; so be it. I like proficiency and I am most eager that the forthcoming elections should be above all suspicion. We want to have elections whose results no one can argue with and we try to avoid all points that could be a subject of objection. Thus we have decided that the polling stations that were in the past under the governor or the local authorities, should be headed by the chairman of the municipal council. This is only one of the many measures we have taken.

[Reporter] Are you ready from now to think of approving the principle of rotation in government?

[Hassan] This is an essential matter. The benefit of elections is to appoint a majority to take over government. Even if this majority is not significant, qualified people must be found to run the affairs of the state in the best way. The political facts have changed and the era of sharp confrontation, which existed all over the world between supporters of a controlled economy and the liberals, is over. For my part, I was full of convictions which the recent changes have proved right. We are today experiencing the collapse of a camp, and therefore the danger of a controlled economy has gone. Any reservations I might have had are no longer justified. I now welcome anyone who wants to contribute to the running of the country's affairs and feels capable of doing so.

[Reporter] Is this even if this concerns the Socialist Union of Popular Forces?

[Hassan] Why not? Why do you make this an issue concerning the Socialist Union itself? As you know, I have several friends in this party, at the forefront of whom is the late Abderrahim Bouabid, its secretary

general, who was my friend and my companion in the struggle. I reiterate that the doors are open to all.

[Reporter] In the charter they submitted to you on 26 May the opposition parties called for the release of all prisoners of conscience.

[Hassan] There were prisoners of conscience in Morocco, but there are no longer any. All the political parties are represented in the Consultative Council for Human Rights. No one believes there are any more political prisoners in Morocco.

[Reporter] The Moroccan organization for the defense of human rights states the opposite.

[Hassan] It should thus resort to discussing the issue with the Consultative Council for Human Rights. I follow the majority opinion on this issue.

[Reporter] What about the fate of the Islamic fundamentalist detainees?

[Hassan] The issue here is not related to a misdemeanor or difference of opinion, but to straying from the right path and religion. The issues concerning this field are within my competence. I practice this with all responsibility. Morocco, Africa, and the world are fortunate. I hope that all those who are full of values of freedom encourage these responsibilities of mine.

[Reporter] You wanted to turn the page last year and consequently put an end to the cases of detention which spurred reactions abroad. As this issue has been achieved now, and as you started a series of democratic openings, can you not admit now the existence of the Tazmamart detention camp? Where does the problem lie?

[Hassan] The words detention camp are not the right ones.

[Reporter] Have you got another description for Tazmamart?

[Hassan] It is a place where there are [as heard] people who have been under administrative custody.

[Reporter] This detention camp was closed and demolished some time ago.

[Hassan] There was no more reason for its existence. This page was turned over, it existed and does not exist any more, and that is all there is to it.

[Reporter] Your economic strategy during the last 10 years has earned the praise of the IMF. This enabled you to secure significant credits. Was that at the expense of the social aspect?

[Hassan] This is what I was going to say to you. This economic success was accomplished at the expense of numerous investments and work posts. We have to get out of this vicious circle. Let us consider the example of the countries which did not resort to rescheduling their debts. They are in a vicious circle leading them to suffocation. Getting out of this vicious circle, making the dirham convertible, and appearing as a prospective partner to Europe are positive things, but we must not forget our internal problems. Our social situation is our first problem. the government that will be formed after the coming elections has to tackle this subject with the necessary firmness and determination.

[Reporter] What is the subject that has priority for you? Is it unemployment?

[Hassan] Thank God, we have not reached a dangerous level. The important thing is to revive work, because unemployment—although I do not like this terminology—remains even in the more industrialized and more prosperous countries. The volume of unemployment should be reduced in order to reach a kind of compensated unemployment. For example, if there was no employment for all members of a family, there must at least be employment for the majority of them. This is a decisive matter in a country such as Morocco where members of the family live together. We have no old people's homes nor homes for the neglected elderly. Everyone—father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, old uncle, and old aunt—is living in the same house. At the end of every month no one must rent or for the meat or bread that he has eaten. [sentence as heard] According to our family structure, if a family of 10 members has four working, then the rest who are not working would be considered unemployed. It is not like that in Morocco.

[Reporter] What does it mean to open negotiations with the aim of reaching an agreement on free exchange with the EEC?

[Hassan] There is no ideal formula for free exchange. This is achieved through a series of agreements within a legal framework that should be defined. It is not confined to economic and financial matters. A human framework should be drawn for vocational training, emigration, the transfer of technology, and the establishment of joint companies. We wish to represent to Europe what Mexico represents to the United States. Considering Morocco a qualified country to be associated with the EEC is honoring it and upgrading its status. We will see how far this association will go. I am a practical man.

[Reporter] You have always seriously endeavored to reach a peaceful solution to the issue of the Middle East. How do you analyze the victory of the Labor Party in the Israeli elections on 23 June?

[Hassan] You do remember, as I do, what Mr. Shamir said before the elections. He said that if he stayed in the government he would exhaust the patience of the negotiators by talking about the plans for domestic autonomy for the Palestinians without the wish to reach a solution. However Labor has adopted different language. Their success in the elections constitutes a very important step, especially if we evaluate things by contrasts.

I met Mr. Rabin when he was prime minister. That meeting took place four months before his resignation. I

later met Mr. Peres. Both of them told me that they wish to end the war. There was no reason for them to lie to me.

The outcome of these elections constitutes a step forward for the peace supporters. Outstanding results should not be expected to be achieved within the first months or weeks of the negotiations, however. It is indisputable that there will be a change in the manner of approaching problems and the adopted methodology, but there are many obstacles. The important thing—and I say this not just to let the Israeli know but also the Arab brothers—is that the methodology will change. I have to say that I have not met either side.

[Reporter] Do you intend to meet them?

[Hassan] It is certain that I will meet the Palestinians.

[Reporter] Do you intend to meet Mr. Rabin as well?

[Hassan] Out of prudence, I do not want to upset people I believe are positive and want to be effective. Let us leave the Israelis first to form their government and contact the main concerned parties. Then, if they deem it necessary, they can come to me and we will look into the matter.

[Reporter] How do see the future of the peace process? What is the step that will make desisive progress possible?

[Hassan] I personally believe that if the superpowers of the world were able to exert preasure on the three parties—the Jordanians, the Palestinians, and the Israelis—telling them you have a period of three weeks to reconcile yourselves, the problem would be solved quickly.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the existence of Israel does not constitute a problem for any Arab country?

[Hassan] The Arab world had said that and affirmed it numerous times. You have to go back to the Fez summit. It was clear and frank. However, about which Israel we are talking and within which borders? Naturally we will discuss that. The Israeli entity, the Israeli people, Israeli sovereignty, and Israeli security are matters recognized by the Arab world. The most difficult stage has been surpassed in which all of them met at the negotiating table. Now they are capable of exchanging telephone conversations and correspondence. This is very important. The psychological barrier which exisited is no longer there. I do not think any Arab country would say no if Israel says yes.

[Reporter] More than a year has passed since the Gulf war. How do you assess the situation on the Arab scene?

[Hassan] This war has left the Arab world exhausted in feelings more than in its body. It is very difficult for the wounds to heal. Therefore, I have the deep impression—but I do not say conviction—that the development of the Arab-Israeli problem will inevitably lead to a summit conference. That is because if the Israelis really want to take a serious step, then it is imperative that the Arabs take a serious step. I believe that as long as Jordan, like Syria, the Palestinians, and Lebanon, is in need of the Arab world's appreciation and support, then the Arab summit is coming.

[Reporter] Does the Arab summit mean the return of Iraq?

[Hassan] The problem of Iraq was never on the agenda of some Arab countries.

[Reporter] Is it on the agenda of others?

[Hassan] The attendence of President Saddam Husayn at the summit is a problem for some.

[Reporter] He is still the president of Iraq.

[Hassan] This is an observation pointed out by those states. I believe it is possible to overcome this barrier as President Saddam Husayn is, in any case, president of an entity. It is necessary for the leaders of the Arab countries to meet before the end of the year, God willing.

[Reporter] The fundamental or extremist trends are strong in the Middle East, as they are in the Arab Maghreb. Is it possible to talk, as is done in the West, about Islamic danger?

[Hassan] It is a real danger, for it is a result of bad interpretation or a particular interpretation of religion at the Khomeyni era. Iran is not the only country that knows this problem. Other countries also know it, although its motive in those countries is political. In my opinion the real danger is of a religious nature. The political phenomenon is always relative subject to the laws of history and experience ebb and tide, while the religious danger is an absolute danger.

[Reporter] We have not yet talked about France and Franco-Moroccan relations. Has the chill, as you have called it, in the Moroccan-French relations, gone?

[Hassan] It has gone and there are no difficulties whatsoever. However, this does not mean there are no problems; but when we work togather to find a solution it means the problem is no longer a dispute.

[Reporter] Are meetings between the two sides scheduled?

[Hassan] I hope to invite Pierre Beregovoy to pay an official visit to Morocco. He is an old friend I have known since the elections of President Mitterrand as head of the French Republic. Since then Pierre Beregovoy always carries good news. I think it is time for us to express to him our cordial feelings.

That was the text of the exclusive interview that King Hassan II granted to the French paper LIBERATION. Thank you for your attention.

Kuwait

Zimbabwean Delegation Leaves After Official Visit

LD0807210292 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira and Tichaendepi Masaya, minister of state for economic planning and development, left Kuwait this morning at the end of an official visit that lasted for several days. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Pilgrimage Minister Receives Nigeria's Ibrahim

LD0807214092 Riyadh SPA in English 1921 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, July 8, SPA—Pilgrimage and Endowments Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Wasi received here on Wednesday Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zakaria Ibrahim, who is also head of his country's hajj mission.

'Abd-al-Wasi and Zakaria discussed a number of issues pertaining to Nigerian pilgrims.

After the meeting, Zakaria praised the efforts made by the Saudi Government in service of pilgrims. He said the efforts had enabled the pilgrims to perform their rites in ease and comfort. Zakaria also lauded the cooperation between the Pilgrims and Endowments Ministry and the Nigerian Pilgrimage Mission.

The meeting was attended by the Nigerian ambassador to the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

Romanian Minister Comments on Talks in Abu Dhabi

JN0807172292 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 8 (GNA)—Romanian Minister of State for Economic and Financial Affairs Paul Coman [name and title as received] expressed satisfaction today over his talks with UAE [United Arab Emirates] leaders and said he had requested loans to finance development projects in his country.

He said his visit would result in strengthening relations between the UAE and Romania and praised the friendly ties under the leaderships of the two countries.

"My visit to the UAE is designed to boost cooperation in the political, economic and other fields. We will soon sign an agreement on avoiding double taxation to boost joint investment," he told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

He said the agreement would be signed in Bucharest next month during the meeting of the joint UAE-Romanian commission.

Coman, who is on a Gulf tour, met Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, officials from Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development and other UAE leaders. He said Romania was seeking loans to finance projects in oil, petrochemicals and other industrial fields. "We are confident we [words indistinct] loans given our strong ties with the Arab world and our stand during the Gulf crisis," he said.

He said Romania was willing to accept UAE oil for refining, adding it has a large refining capacity, standing at 32 million tonnes per year. Current production is estimated at 20 million tonnes, he said.

Coman gave no figures about Romania's trade with the UAE but said UAE businessmen had set up 51 projects in his country. During his talks with [words indistinct] officials, he proposed eight joint investment ventures in oil and other industries. "They promised to study this proposal and there will be more talk about it," he said.

Coman said Romania had lost around three billion dollars from the embargo against Iraq and another three billion from international sanctions against Yugoslavia. "We have resorted to loans becuase we have not received any compensation for those losses," he said.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

JN0807153892 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Jul (WAKH)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Abu Dhabi from Beirut this evening on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He will hold talks with a number of senior UAE officials on developments in Lebanon and the Middle East, as well as bilateral relations.

He was received at the airport by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of officials at the ministry.

Barzan al-Tikriti on Redrawing Gulf Borders

JN0707155192 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 92 p 6

["First part" of an article by Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent UN representative in Geneva: "For a Better Arab Future"]

[Text] In 1970, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, later to become president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], was asked whether it was true that the Gulf rulers had real differences mapping out the future of their projected federal union and independence. His answer was: "Arabs will be Arabs. Does it stand to reason that Gulf Arabs are cast in a mold different from their counterparts in the north and the east?" In other words, from a human perspective, Gulf Arabs are no different from their fellow Arabs elsewhere. Hence, it is hard to imagine a situation where differences are absent. Given that the UAE was rooted in differences, Shaykh Zayid's remark was quite appropriate, at any rate insofar as it was an expression of sympathy with the rest of the Arabs. He made the point that Gulf Arabs somehow yearned for or contemplated belonging to a political entity larger than the system or entity of a shaykhdom.

This was born out in 18 February 1968 when the then ruler of Abu Dhabi Shaykh Zayid and the then ruler of Dubai Shaykh Rashid Bin-Sa'id Al Maktum declared a federal union between their two states and called upon the rulers of the other five trucial shaykhdoms of al-Sharjah, 'Ajman, 'Umm-al-Qawayn, al-Fujayrah, and Ra's al-Khaymah, as well as Bahrain and Qatar to join the union. These convened a three-day meeting between 25 and 27 February 1968 in Dubai, which produced an agreement that was to become known as the Dubai Agreement. That union came to be regarded as the center of political life in the Gulf up to the last days of British rule, and thus was born the notion of the federal union. Obvioulsy, the rulers of the Gulf opted for their countries becoming small states rather than a larger entity grouping them together.

In the 10 years since that agreement was reached, the Gulf states kept their distance from other regional countries. At the same time, these countries set about competing among theselves to obtain recognition from Arab countries in the way they know and do best, and that is giving away money left and right in the form of economic and financial assistance. But before long, with an upsurge in Islamic fundamentalism and the advent of the Iranian revolution in February 1979, followed by the Iraq-Iran war, change caught up with the world, and in particular our region. These developments led to a heightened sense of the Gulf rulers' need for security, and consequently spurred political coordination among the Gulf states. And so the need to create a regional organization took precedence over the traditional deep-seated opposition to any moves smacking of any unionist or coordinative action.

The Gulf rulers realized that they had to close ranks and coordinate with each other in order to survive, otherwise they would fall one after the other. In light of this, and of which they were convinced, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] emerged with the following six Gulf states as members—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, and Oman. The GCC was the first serious attempt after the experiment of the federation in the late sixties and before declaring independence.

The idea of coordination appeared and imposed itself because of the Gulf rulers' increasing feeling of the need for security. At a special meeting held in Muscat in 1972 and attended by the foreign ministers of the Gulf states, including Iraq and Iran, Sultan Qabus urged the foreign ministers to draft a unified security policy to face the dangers facing and threatening the region. The Government of "Kuwait" then adopted the call for working in this direction. In 1976, it officially called for establishing a kind of union among all the Gulf states in order to raise the standard of cooperation in all political, economic, media, and educational fields. However, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 and the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war ended the Gulf hesitation and a new spirit or concept for unity emerged. The GCC was declared in Riyadh on 25 May 1981.

However, it later became clear that each member had a different view of the GCC. Saudi Arabia found it a good opportunity to play the role of the big partner in light of its geographical size, huge oil fortune, its religious importance, and large population compared with the other GCC states.

At the same time, however, the council gave Kuwait a position through which it could convince others that it was the most qualified "state" to lead other small states within the same council. Its objective was to create a balance with the big partner or "brother"—Saudi Arabia. As for the UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar, the council for them meant a safe haven from the effects of explosions which might occur here or there in a volatile Arab world.

The Sultanate of Oman viewed the council as a new regional gathering through which it could move to assert its identity and at the same time influence events in the same region. Besides, it provided its policy, which is based on strong and close relations with the West, with collective regional support. At the same time, the absence of Iraq and the (then) two parts of Yemen from the GCC guaranteed a considerable amount of coherence for Oman's foreign policy and boosted its special relations with Egypt and its security arrangements. In addition, the Sultanate of Oman took it for granted that the GCC would secure it a reasonable amount of investment and financial support that would help it implement the development process it was looking forward to, particularly that Oman was the regional country most needy of an investment program to develop its infrastructure. Therefore, it expected generous aid from its wealthier partners.

However, the desire for unity of the six countries making up the GCC, and even for coordination in military and security spheres, ran into significant and real obstacles that cannot be dismissed out of hand. At the same time, and despite the fact that more than a decade has elapsed since the launching of the GCC, we note that these facts which are standing in the way of efforts aimed at achieving unity or even coordination in certain spheres have remained unchanged. Worse still, these facts have become more salient and visible to the naked eye and well known to even those of mediocre intelligence. These facts can be summed up as follows:

1. Relations among the Arabian Gulf states, that is, bilateral relations among GCC members, have, without exception, increasingly continued to show a great deal of sensitivities, differences, and doubts. What has happened between Qatar and Bahrain is only an example that corroborates my argument in this regard.

2. Relations between the Gulf states and other Arab states with regard to the Middle East conflict—the Arab-Zionist conflict—have shown differences of political views on this issue, which is of critical importance to Arabs.

3. Tribal regimes in the Gulf, relations among ruling dynasties, and personal sensitivities, not to mention historical vindictiveness, including the ongoing border disputes.

4. The presence of a large Arab community in the Gulf, made up of Palestinians—who are the majority, Egyptians, Sudanese, Iraqis, and Lebanese, and the impact that is bound to be left by this presence on the political, economic, and even social approaches pursued in each of the Gulf states, particularly as all these communities belong to countries that are more sophisticated and have older civilizations than the GCC states, countries that came into being under circumstances different from those under which the GCC members came into being. Additionally, the factors that catapulted these states into statehood are different from those experienced by GCC members before they came into being, not to mention the intellect, wisdom, and ability to organize and chart plans that these countries have demonstrated.

5. Religious divisions as well as the numerous and differing interpretations of Islam after it emerged as an alternative to Arab nationalism in this region in light of the growth of Islamic fundamentalism among the populations of the GCC member states in response to the Iranian revolution and in view of the abeyance of Arab nationalism which resulted from the lack of inter-Arab cohesion.

6. The political and social phenomena emerging due to the presence of large numbers of foreign workers who came to the region after the boom realized since the acquisition of greater oil revenues. Asian workers constitute the greater percentage of these workers who invaded the GCC member states.

With respect to the GCC members' efforts to effect coordination in the military and security spheres, they have foundered and become a divisive issue. Besides, the tribal border disputes inherited by ruling dynasties in the Gulf states have remained time bombs placed in the GCC's lobbies. However, recent circumstances and events as well as the Western presence on the GCC members' territories and its control of things there have prevented and will prevent the emergence of any dispute or clash among GCC members as long as the West maintains its presence in the region, regardless of the reasons which might be behind such disputes. As for the Gulf rulers, they are fully aware of this. Hence, they will keep the peace and show concern for keeping the West undisturbed.

It is worth mentioning that when the British authorities in India offered the Gulf shaykhdoms British protection and the shaykhdoms accepted, the British believed that the process was a purely maritime operation and had nothing to do with land borders because the land borders of these shaykhdoms lie in sand deserts which nobody wants or thinks of.

As a result of this understanding and for their own political reasons, the British on more than one occasion missed the opportunity to delineate the borders among the shaykhdoms, either because the Arabs rejected the British proposals because the Arabs came to realize the value of land after the discovery of oil in the region, or more importantly because the British wanted to maintain the status quo without any clear borders in order to perpetuate differences among them. This is a well-known British policy. They always take a course so that issues remain ambiguous and matters can be explained by each party to suit his own desire, convinced that he is in the right.

Otherwise how can the Iraq-Iran borders be drawn in that way, making the Iraqi border along the eastern bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway instead of making it the deepest point under the river waters or the thalweg, as is the case in all world regions? The answer is that they wanted problems to remain alive between Iraq and Iran and worsen with time in order to harm the two countries and the region, a situation which we are now witnessing. These are only a few examples of British policy. Because the protective power assumes the responsibility of caring for the external interests of the region's stateless, the undelineated borders among the Arabs in the Gulf became an Arab burden after being a British burden. This burden also became a pan-Arab burden when the shaykhdoms in the Gulf became independent in 1971. Since then, there have been unceasing claims by each of them against its neighbors. This is what the British wanted in the first place.

The blue line, which defines the eastern borders of the Ottoman Empire in the Arabian Peninsula and which the British and Turks agreed on in 1913, has lost its value to most rulers. The recent Bahrain-Qatar differences and the movements of armed forces around Fasht

al-Dibal Island in 1986 is an example of this phenomenon. The GCC proved to be ineffective in solving differences among the member states when Saudi Arabia intervened but failed to solve the Bahrain-Qatar dispute. Thus, the issue was frozen and put aside only to erupt again after the West withdraws from the Gulf region.

As a result of this situation, we notice that the GCC states are facing a historic choice if they want to have genuine stability. In the past, it was often said that the Gulf states have to accept the borders drawn for them by the British and which they accepted when they obtained independence in 1971, or completely reject these borders and return to the old tribal system. I think that the latter option is now nonexistent because of the world circumstances and developments in general, particularly the recent events in the region. It must be recalled that before the British acquired it following World War I, this region was one entity with no internal borders and with well-known central states or authorities. But because of the British policies, interests, and aims in the region, well-known events took place and the region assumed its current picture.

Therefore, another viewpoint is raised by some Arabs and non-Arabs who have interests in the region; namely, redrawing the political map of the Arabian Peninsula. The current GCC must accept this change if it wants to last and survive.

Therefore, what happens if the Arabian Gulf states accept the concept of redrawing the political map of the Arabian Peninsula, given the well-known importance of this idea, which is prompted by sanguinary events in the region caused by the current political map drawn under special circumstances and causing injustice to prominent parties in the region? Furthermore, the small entities are regarded as weak links in the theory and concept of the region's national security and could cause many surprises to the region and the world which has interest in the region. This makes conditions uneasy and unstable, causing a disturbance in interests and relations, both among the region's states and between these states and the outside world, which considers the region of utmost importance to it because of its interests there.

Moreover, we must take into account that oil will eventually go away either because it might dry up or be replaced by an alternative type of fuel. It is more probable that the oil revenues might drop very quickly. Thus, the importance of relations among the region's states becomes obvious for the sake of economic integration which will become something necessary when oil disappears or when its revenues run low, in addition to national security requirements and importance. Those concerned must be convinced that the borders drawn by the British colonialists are impractical, doing injustice to the interest of the main parties in the region and causing disasters and problems. Their acceptance of the idea of changing the political map is useful because it serves the interests of all.

Let us now consider some possibilities that would result from redrawing the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula region's political map. Let us visualize the following possibilities:

1. Qatar will lose the reasons and justifications for its independence. It is obvious to everyone that Doha has no oil or borders. [sentence as published] It will neither be as important nor more important than Dhahran. The good and firm ties between the ruling family, Al Thani, in Qatar, and the Saudi royal house makes things easier, prompting Al Thani to accept the patronization of Al Sa'ud in the same way that the Arabian Peninsula shaykhs accepted the rule of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz seventy years ago. Thus, the Al Thani family will continue to be shaykhs over Qatar in a position similar to that of the amirs of the Saudi Arabian regions who represent the king and keep some of their powers without any Arab or foreign representative powers outside the domain of the Saudi state.

2. Bahrain: It is well known that Bahrain's financial interests as well as its heart have, for a long time, been with Saudi Arabia. Now that the causeway linking Bahrain to Saudi Arabia has been completed, Bahrain is no longer an island, as it used to be. The causeway has noticeably improved and enhanced economic ties between the two countries. Right now, it is difficult for Bahrain to choose an alternative to Saudi Arabia. We must bear in mind that Bahrain has neither benefited a great deal from oil, nor has it seen the prosperity it provides. Therefore, it will not be considerably affected by its depletion. The Bahraini people are a hardworking and active people who have managed, since their independence in 1971, to lay the foundation for light industries, not to mention banking services, hotels, and other service facilities, which are beneficial and perhaps necessary to Saudis and which will remain so in the future. Despite the great historical role Bahrain has played in the Arabian Gulf throughout the past eras, and even though the Al Khalifah dynasty's rule has enhanced and entrenched Bahrain's Arab identity over the past 200 years—in the year 1983, the Al Khalifah dynasty, which comes second in the sustained rule exercised in the Arab world, marked its bicentennial in office—the redrawing of the political map of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula is bound to include it. Bahrain would be a Saudi province capable of providing Saudi Arabia with services that Saudi Arabia itself cannot provide, and that it cannot do without.

3. The UAE: Its raison d'etre will vanish, because it is difficult to envisage it as a viable state. When they came into being in 1971, the seven small shaykhdoms, which make up the UAE, were merged together by Britain, which was preparing to evacuate the region in a hurry. Furthermore, the UAE is vulnerable to and even threatened with disintegration, because it has been a federation in name only. We also note that the UAE, even during the boom brought about by increasing oil revenues, failed to find for itself an appropriate position in Arab and international politics. We all heard of the UAE Government's failure to pay employees their salaries on

time—a matter which confused the seat of government and other shaykhdoms as well. Similarly, the UAE has failed to honor its financial commitments to most Arab organizations and some Third World institutions.

These are merely a few examples showing how fragile the organizational structure of the UAE Government is, and how ruptured the federation's domestic structures are. If we were to elaborate further on the UAE in the way of evaluating its viability, we would find nothing to talk about except UAE President Shaykh Zayid, who is viewed as the guarantor of the federation because he was its first president. Additionally, he is distinct from other shaykhs, who are of equal merit and specifications. They all depend on the financial support the wealthy Abu Dhabi Emirate provides them.

4. The Sultanate of Oman: The Sultanate of Oman has the right—as a state and power with clear geographical and historical rights, which was called the Coast of Oman and the Trucial Coast—to annex the UAE and return it to the mother homeland. For, it is well known that each shaykhdom in the UAE had used, up until 1971, the word "Omani" to describe the nationality of its citizens in the passports it issued. The geopolitical factors have been, and are still, an important issue for the Sultanate of Oman. The northern part of Omani territory is separated by the al-Fujayrah Emirate. This isolated the Musandam Peninsula from the rest of the Sultanate's territory. The Omanis also view the UAE as an artificial entity created to please the whims and schemes of British colonialists. Add to this the fact that a large percentage of the UAE Armed Forces personnel are now Omanis. There is also a large number of Omanis who work in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and who frequent Muscat and Salalah on various occasions.

Annexing the UAE to the Sultanate of Oman is therefore a natural and easy thing to do. We must remember here that the Bu-Sa'id family, which is now ruling the Sultanate of Oman, is the oldest continuously ruling Arab family. The fact is this family has been ruling for 250 years. The UAE ruling families (Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi, Al Maktum in Dubai, al-Qawasim in al-Sharjah and Ra's al-Khaymah, Al Na'im in 'Ajman, and Al Mu'alla in 'Umm-al-Qaywayn) had been, until recently, either subjects of the sultan of Oman or dependent on financial aid from him.

Therefore, they will find themselves once again under his command. This is why many people, who are concerned about the affairs of the region and about preventing big problems there, argue that it is only natural and logical that the UAE shaykhdoms should come under the rule of the sultan. It is well known that the Sultanate of Oman has always sought to play a greater role in Gulf political affairs. It feels, at the same time, that it was done an injustice when the current Gulf map was drawn up by the British. 5. (Kuwait): It has limited options depending on several factors that will gain prominence when the political map of the Gulf region is redrawn. It is well known, however, that its political option will be, out of self-concern, to maintain its current structure as a "state." This option, however, is not an easy thing since it requires neutralizing Iraq. Iraq has been convinced, ever since its independence, that Kuwait is part of it, and it has tried on more than one occasion to return it to the mother homeland. But many Arab calculations and international interests have stood in the way. The most recent example is what happened on 2 August 1990, for which Iraq has paid a price which can never be higher in any other incident. Iraq will never forget this price, and it will be inherited by future generations and adopted for a fateful cause, even if this would take a shape that is different from what has been experienced since Iraq's independence up until this moment. This is because the cause has become one of an entire nation and homeland, etcetera.

Therefore, before 2 August 1990 we noticed that the Government of (Kuwait) had adopted a strategy that aimed to keep Iraq preoccupied and weak. It contributed to preoccupying Iraq on the eastern front with Iran, and also took part in other schemes to preoccupy Iraq on the Syrian-Jordanian front with Israel. At the same time, the Government of (Kuwait) adopts the idea of democracy and free press to safeguard its internal front and to look different from other Arab Gulf states. Therefore, we believe that preoccupying Iraq in the future will not be an easy thing. Differences with Iran will be solved; and another war with Iran is not possible, particularly since the two countries have seen what war really is. They have also reached the conclusion that negotiations for years are better than war for one day. This is the logic of the age. Besides, the major and radical world changes and the disappearance of the Soviet Union as a superpower from the face of the West have brought the cold war to an end.

The other issue—the Arab-Israeli conflict—will find its way toward a solution, any solution. People are not asking now what kind of solution there will be, because they have become helpless, exhausted, weary of war.

Therefore, Iraq has no future preoccupations or problems other than this vital issue, be it on the official or the popular level.

It is better and more appropriate for all parties to look at the issue with a clear eye and an enlightened mind so that those concerned, on both sides, can find a useful path for all parties, including the other Arabs—namely, the establishment of unity between the two countries, and viewing things in a modern way whereby each party respects the other in all aspects. I am sure that in each country, there are facts [mu'tayat] that complement facts in the other country.

This applies to politics, the economy, and information, as well as the society, which is one society sharing the same traditions, history, language, and religion. Even the climate and food of this society are often identical rather than just similar.

What prevents compassionate hearts and intentions from making a decision to establish a unified state comprising the two countries? Interests will intermingle, energies and capabilities will interact, ambitions will merge, the homeland will prosper, and peace, virtue, and security will dominate great Iraq. This, indeed, is the wish of every patriot and sincere man. It will really mark a new birth, and a new, dignified life.

As for democracy, Iraq is taking steps toward democracy. A decision in this regard has been made. Had it not been for the events of 2 August 1990, the most important aspects of democracy would have been applied, be it with regard to the press, party pluralism, or even the presidential elections, which were scheduled to be held in November 1990.

Therefore, I say that Iraq has no future preoccupations or problems, and that it will not be easy to preoccupy it again.

6. Saudi Arabia: After Qatar and Bahrain join it, Saudi Arabia will be larger and more harmonious. The winds of change blowing across it will definitely have a healthy and positive effect in terms of pushing the country toward more freedom and openness. Manpower and services will be available for Saudi Arabia in Bahrain, and to a lesser degree in Qatar. Saudi Arabia will earn great credit for contributing to the unification of those parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

Inspection Team Remains Outside Ministry Building

Protest Against UN Team 'Spontaneous'

JN0807121892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1033 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—'Abd-al-Sattar Salman Husayn, senior under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, has affirmed that the massive march staged by women outside the ministry building last night was a spontaneous march in which the glorious Iraqi women expressed their indignation over the actions of the inspection team led by American national Karen Jansen.

In a statement to INA, the ministry official added that the inspection team is attempting to fabricate pretexts and accusations against the employees working at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation by alleging that there is a connection between them and the women's protest march.

'Abd-al-Sattar Husayn went on to say that the inspection team is more aware than anyone else that the women's protest march was spontaneous. He noted that the team is also aware of the immense efforts being made by the competent Iraqi authorities to protect the team members and prevent demonstrators from reaching them.

Team Seeks Development 'Figures, Plans'

JN0807155992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Commentary by 'Isa al-Jisawi carried within the "Radio Newspaper" program; read by Rawhi Ahmad]

[Text] Gentlemen: Commenting on a statement issued by the Security Council on 6 July, the foreign minister yesterday said: The statement issued by the Security Council is both surprising and ridiculous.

The Security Council interpreted Iraq's stand in not allowing the inspection team to storm the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building as a material and unacceptable breach of cease-fire Resolution 687 by Iraq, as the council put it.

This hasty, illogical interpretation empties Security Council resolutions of their meaning. Many international inspection teams have visited Iraq, and Iraq has always cooperated with them and facilitated their missions.

The request of this team, however, is a violation of the sovereignty and inviolability of an Iraqi state civilian department. The request has no aim except to attempt to undermine the prestige of the state and violate its departments. Therefore, Iraq has rejected this request, despite the fact that the same team admitted, as its leader said, that Iraq has extended all facilities to it and that the team conducted more than 11 inspection tours of different sites without finding anything of interest.

The plain fact is that this team, which acts on U.S. orders, by this provocation and conduct aims to attempt access to Iraqi figures and plans on agricultural development, irrigation and reclamation projects, and the volume of agricultural and industrial products, so as to devote its aggressive plans to maintaining the blockade and tightening the noose on our people, given that all their previous attempts to undermine the will and steadfastness of our people—which reached the degree of burning Iraqi farmlands and crops in Mosul—have failed.

Whatever the attempts of those criminals, our people have crossed to the other shore, and they will never go back. They will always maintain their steadfastness and loftiness, reconstructing what was destroyed by the aggressive villains with a steel, unbending will.

Appeals to International Organizations

JN0807200892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1832 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has called on the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] to intervene with the competent authorities in the UN Security Council and General Assembly to hasten lifting the siege that the international inspection team under U.S. national Karen

Jansen has imposed on the ministry since Sunday morning for the purpose of searching it.

In a letter to FAO Director General Edouard Souma, 'Abd-al-Sattar Salman, senior under secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, called for halting these practices, which conflict with international norms and with UN Security Council Resolution 687, given that the ministry is a civilian administration that has nothing to do with banned weapons.

The letter views the operations by the international inspection team as part of the U.S. scheme to burn the fields of the farmers and peasants in northern Iraq.

The letter also explains that the practices of the inspection team have obstructed the ministry's work related to the harvest, which is under way in the country, as well as the summer cultivation of crops, not to mention the obstruction of other services the ministry provides to the farmers and peasants which will have a negative impact on agricultural produce in Iraq.

In a similar letter to Dr. Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah, director general of the Arab Agricultural Development Organization, 'Abd-al-Sattar Salman called for having the Arab ministers of agriculture denounce and condemn the practices of the inspection team and ensure they do not recur in the future.

'Abd-al-Sattar Salman affirmed that the beahavior of the team conflicts with the organization's objectives and principles, which seek to develop agriculture in the Arab homeland.

He explained that the practices of the UN inspection team under Karen Jansen are part of the imperialist-Zionist scheme to starve the Iraqi people and prevent them from securing their own food.

U.S. Aircraft Allegedly Burn Crops in Ninawa

JN0807153092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1452 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] New York, 8 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that on 28 and 29 June, U.S. aircraft burned agricultural produce in Ninawa Governorate by dropping flares.

In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent UN representative explained that the flares dropped by U.S. aircraft caused four fires on 28 June, burning 80 dunums of wheat in al-Hamadaniyah and Taklif districts and al-Namrud subdistrict, which are affiliated with Ninawa Governorate.

He added that U.S. aircraft repeated their crime the next day, burning the farmland in al-Zarfah and 'Umm al-Sayjan villages [names as received], which are part of al-Muhallabiyah, burning 220 dunums planted with wheat.

'Failed' To Damage Mosul Factory

JN0807181792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1756 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—Two U.S. F-16's failed today, Wednesday, to damage the Mosul sugar factory after dropping a flare on it from a height of 50 meters.

Official sources said that the flare lit garbage on fire northwest of the factory, which was reopened last week after its reconstruction in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's orders.

Hostile aircraft on provocation and observation missions today violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Mosul and its suburbs to terrify citizens.

The aircraft flew over the city of Mosul this morning and this afternoon at altitudes of 50-200 meters in two-plane formations. Mirage and F-16 aircraft were involved. The aircraft also overflew the city of Mosul at very low altitudes, sometimes less than 50 meters, to provoke and confuse workers and prevent them from carrying out their duties at the sugar factory.

VOA Report on Amounts of Food, Medicine Denied

JN0807190692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—A responsible Iraqi source has denied reports propagated by U.S. media organs on the amounts of food and medicine they claimed Iraq had received.

The denial was in reaction to a political commentary broadcast by Voice of America on 3 July 1992, which said that UN records show that Iraq has received around 9 million metric tons of food, medicine, and medical supplies since March 1991. This amount almost equals Iraq's annual imports before the Gulf war.

A responsible source at the Trade Ministry said today that this claim was totally fabricated and aimed to deliberately deceive world public opinion. He noted that, with this claim, the United States aims to hide its ignominious crime by seeking to annihilate an entire nation and deprive them of the simplest human rights advocated by international charters and declarations, which is their right to life and access to medicine.

The source said that importing 9 million metric tons of food and other supplies costs at least $3.5 billion, according to current international prices, while the Iraqi assets that were unfrozen by some Western nations amount to $260 million, which can buy around 750,000 metric tons of food supplies.

The source went on to say: The administration of criminal Bush obstructed several requests to import foodstuffs and medicine which were approved by the Sanctions Committee at the cost of $2 billion, when they instructed U.S. and European banks to stop these orders.

The Trade Ministry source added: The administration of criminal Bush was not content with this hostile measure. It continued to put all kinds of pressure on the Sanctions Committee to prevent it from approving many requirements for agricultural production and food industries. For example, the import of bags to fill with locally produced wheat was prevented. The committee also refused to allow the import of small equipment for privately canning tomato paste in view of abundant produce. Consequently, huge quantities of tomatoes spoiled.

More Deportees Arrive in Safwan From Kuwait

JN0807200292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1842 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] al-Basrah, 8 Jul (INA)—Tonight 122 deportees arrived in Safwan, in al-Basrah Province, after they were released from the prisons of the regime imposed on Kuwait. Among the deportees, there are Jordanian and Sudanese citizens who spent more than 18 months in the Kuwaiti prisons.

Two children also arrived. They are Ahmad, age four, and 'Abd-al-Rahman, age two, sons of Iraqi citizen 'Ali Jawad al-Khafaji, whose mother, the Kuwaiti citizen Faridah Hashim, was prohibited from leaving Kuwait.

The deportees said that Kuwait has become a big insane asylum in which hysteria and tension prevail. Also, children and school boys use weapons to resolve their problems and there is an absence of security.

Agriculture Minister Returns From Damascus

JN0807195592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh returned to Baghdad this evening after participating in the 21st session of the Arab Center for the Study of Arid and Desert Areas, which concluded yesterday in Damascus.

During the meetings, discussions focused on future studies of desertification, a seminar on water resources, and the center's budget and future plan of action.

Representatives of Arab states which are members of the center took part in the meetings.

'Large Demonstrations' Reported in Tabriz

JN0507134692 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 5 Jul 92

[Text] Paris, July 5, INA—The Iranian city of Tabriz, centre of eastern Azerbaijan, was scene of large demonstrations in protest against the Iranian regime's oppressive practises and demolition of more than 300 houses in the city.

The Iranian opposition organisation Mojahedin-e Khalq said in a statement released in Paris today that nearly 30 thousand Iranians took part in the demonstrations. It added that the regime's forces and Revolutionary Guards were put on maximum alert for fear that the demonstration might extend to other cities. Around 100 people were arrested.

It confirmed that checkpoints were set up and patrols were sent to the city in an attempt to put the situation under control.

DPK Commander Shefik, 3 Aides 'Assassinated'

NC0907103792 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 4 Jul 92 p 17

[Report by Namik Durukan from Diyarbakir: "Tension in Northern Iraq"]

[Text] A commander of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], headed by Mas'ud Barzani, has been assassinated in northern Iraq along with three of his assistants. The incident occurred when tension created in the region by the assassination of Sadiq 'Umar, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] committee member in Zakho, has not yet subsided.

The Sindi tribe in Northern Iraq reacted to 'Umar's assassination by individuals who are allegedly affiliated with the DPK and decided to suspend its relations with the DPK and PUK until the criminals are captured. 'Umar was killed while returning to his house a few days ago.

As tension continued to prevail in Zakho, unidentified people attacked Major Mahmud Shafiq, commander of 1,000 peshmerga affiliated with Mas'ud Barzani, with a rocket launcher at about 0930 yesterday morning. Major Shafiq was traveling with three assistants in a private car. They were all killed in the attack.

Talabani Discusses Efforts To Topple Saddam

NC0907104592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Jul 92 p 5

[Report by Mustafa 'Abdallah from Vienna]

[Excerpt] At the end of the Iraqi opposition's national conference in Vienna a few days ago, efforts were begun to hold a second opposition conference in Damascus or inside the Kurdish region, a third in al-Ta'if, and a fourth in Iran.

Despite the Iraqi opposition parties' differences over numerous issues, they do agree that Saddam Husayn's regime is the worst regime to afflict Iraq and its people. So the opposition's goals have focused on toppling the current regime and replacing it with a democratic system that would preserve Iraq's territorial integrity, people, and existence.

As part of the Iraqi opposition's efforts to set up a modern regime free of fear and terrorism, it held its first conference in Beirut in 1991. After about a year and a

half of deliberations and consultations, the Vienna conference, the opposition's second, was held. American personalities attended the Vienna conference, a sign that the United States has participated in the conference at least as an observer. Among the Americans who attended were Dr. Peter Halub Raniah [name as published], U.S. Senate adviser on Kurdish and Iraqi affairs. Dr. Gaylani Walker [name as published], assistant adviser to the British foreign secretary for Middle Eastern affairs, also attended.

Although the conference's agenda was full, AL-AHRAM interviewed some participating leaders—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]; Dr. Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, an Iraqi Islamic movement leader; Dr. 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban, head of the Arab Human Rights Organization in Britain; and Layth Kubbah, the conference's official spokesman.

We asked them questions of interest to the Arab reader on the failure to achieve any result since the first opposition conference in Beirut in 1991. We asked them why the Iraqi opposition has been unable to introduce an alternative to the regime in Iraq to convince world and Iraqi public opinion of the thinking of Iraqi opposition factions between the Beirut and Vienna conferences and of Saddam's ability to remain in power despite internal and international isolation.

Talabani said: Failure to achieve any result in Beirut was attributed to the state of coercion that the Iraqi opposition suffered and to the lack of a plan for an alternative regime in Iraq around which the Iraqis would rally and that would identify a new ruler.

He added: Besides, some Iraqi opposition members have been under the influence of certain countries because no comprehensive concept reflecting the Iraqi people's opinion and will to replace the oppressive ruler in Iraq was formed. He continued: The Iraqi opposition has been moving in an empty circle for one and a half years, during which it has achieved only monumental disasters and developments in Kurdistan.

Until now, the Iraqi opposition was unable to devise a plan to change the regime because Saddam Husayn destroyed the Iraqi civilian population and put doubt and fear into relations between people, even between brothers, throughout Iraq.

Talabani maintained that: The international community let Saddam quell the popular revolution in southern and northern Iraq because the West and Iraq's Arab neighbors feared Muslim fundamentalists belonging to Iran seizing northern Iraq. There was also a belief at the time that the Kurds would partition Iraq if they controlled Kurdistan. This has been proved wrong and agreement has been reached on a formula to tackle the Kurdish situation in Iraq.

Finally, Talabani told AL-AHRAM that the Iraqi opposition will work toward ensuring a favorable climate for mobilizing the Iraqi people's resources to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in cooperation with neighbors and the international community.

He emphasized that he is certain the resources of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi opposition forces within the Army and the ruling party will spare bloodshed through a popular uprising to bring about Saddam's downfall. He said international aid has now been allocated to the Iraqi opposition, largely from Europe and the United States. He said a working paper defines the means the Iraqi opposition will use to exercise its activity in and outside Iraq. [passage omitted]

Expectations From New Kurdish Cabinet Noted

NC0707053092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1718 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Unscheduled talk]

[Text] Dear listeners, in the wake of the elections and various consultations, the first Kurdish cabinet has been named. Its members represent the two major parties—the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan—in addition to one minister who represents the Christians.

The Kurdish people expect much from their cabinet; it has many tasks to deal with. The people will support the cabinet as long as it is effective. Our people have always dreamed of having the political power and international support they now enjoy. [passage indistinct]

The (?withdrawal) of Ba'thist forces from Kurdistan is a significant accomplishment, as is the destruction of the regime's security and intelligence centers. The salvation of part of Kurdistan is a great national event that deserves to be celebrated for generations to come. We believe that current conditions, although harsh, will improve over time, especially after what we hope will be the imminent fall of the current Iraqi Government.

The Kurdish cabinet is our supreme policy-making and executive body. It will therefore have to answer for any failure to resolve the problems facing our people.

The reasons the three united parties—the Kurdistan Democratic Independence Party, the Kurdistan People's Democratic Party, and the Kurdistan Socialist Party—did not join the cabinet can be explained by the position of their united leadership and the unsatisfactory offer made to them by the prime minister. Their leadership issued a statement demanding one of the three major portfolios in the cabinet—either the Interior, the Peshmergas, or the Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation Ministry—as well as one governor and several district officers and subdistrict directors. No agreement was reached, however, and the three parties refused to join the cabinet. This sort of thing happens in other systems of government. The important thing is that the cabinet has been formed and the people have pinned their hopes on it.

Saddam Chairs 2 Meetings of Ba'th Iraq Command

JN0807192992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today chaired two successive meetings for the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During the two meetings, several topics were reviewed, including the new draft law of press and publications.

IDF Ordered To End Hamas, Fatah Bloodshed

TA0907090292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jul 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, 10 days after the outbreak of hostilities between the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah organizations in the Gaza Strip, which have so far resulted in the death of six activists from both organizations and injuring dozens of supporters, Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, decided to instruct IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers stationed in the Gaza Strip to intervene in the conflict and to prevent further bloodshed at any cost.

A senior military source at the Southern Command told HA'ARETZ yesterday that the IDF will not permit activists from various organizations to possess firearms and turn the Strip into "another Lebanon." The source asserted that the IDF will enter the refugee camps and try to prevent further fighting.

Yesterday evening, a representative of the IDF spokesman at the Southern Command announced the steps that will be taken to reduce the level of violence in the area. The announcement stipulated that the IDF had decided to impose the night curfew at 1900 instead of 2200 in the Khan Yunus and al-Mughazi refugee camps and in the town of Khan Yunus itself. By bringing the curfew forward, the IDF will attempt to stop Hamas and Fatah from fighting it out after dark and disrupting the peace. The Army estimates that neither organization will risk clashing during the daylight hours. In addition, it was decided to maintain the curfew clamped on Rafah yesterday and to only lift it at 0600 this morning.

Palestinian sources yesterday reported that representatives of both organizations had met with the reconciliation committee headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, in a bid to reach an agreement on terminating hostilities. Former Knesset Member Muhammad Watad also participated in the reconciliation talks. No agreement was reached during the meeting, and the discussions will be continued today.

An agreement on ending the fighting, which was signed on Monday night, was not implemented after Hamas street activists rejected it. Two days ago, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi sharply condemned the rivalry between Hamas and Fatah. He pointed out that the main problem was the lack of trust between the two groups. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on New Coalition Government

Coalition, Portfolios Outlined

TA0907045592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The Labor party is due to sign coalition agreements with the left-wing Meretz bloc and the ultra-Orthodox SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party today. Labor Secretary General Mikha Harish announced yesterday that the widely sought education portfolio would go to Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni. Steve Lindey has details:

[Lindey] All is now in place for Meretz and SHAS to join the coalition. Meretz Leader Shulamit Aloni has been promised the much desired Education Ministry and SHAS leader Arye Der'i the powerful Interior Ministry. But giving the Education Ministry to Aloni could prove problematic for Labor. For one thing, it was the portfolio demanded by the leader of the right-wing Tzomet Party Refa'el Eytan, and he is now threatening to join the opposition. For another, the move has incurred the wrath of the religious parties. The National Religious Party called it a threat to Jewish education, and Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach reportedly said last night that the United Torah Judaism list should not join a government which has Aloni as minister of education.

The Labor secretary general played down the dispute. He said it appears likely that Tzomet will still join the coalition, and Refa'el Eytan has been offered the industry and trade portfolio. He also said that Tzomet had been assured there would be new elections or a referendum on a permanent arrangement for the territories.

Prime Minister-Designate Yitzhaq Rabin met last night with his former rival in Labor, Shim'on Peres. The two will apparently meet again today. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 9 July in a frontpage report, adds: "Shim'on Peres will be the foreign minister in Yitzhaq Rabin's new government. The Foreign Ministry will operate in its full capacity and Peres will apparently be involved in the peace process." The report adds that "after his request to receive the education portfolio was denied yesterday, Refa'el Eytan demanded the defense portfolio."]

Labor Secretary on Coalition, Platform

TA0907204592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1840 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Studio interview with Labor Secretary General Mikha Harish by Yoram Ronen, political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, and party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Arran on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] The education portfolio featured prominently in today's news. It appears to be the last bone of contention between the government components, with many members of your party demanding that

it remain in Labor. Will it remain in your party, or will Shulamit Aloni, as is rumored, be the next education minister? [passage omitted]

[Harish] I expect most of the problems accompanying the coalition negotiations to be resolved tonight. As you said, there will be a government by Monday [13 July]. In my opinion, today was the breaking point. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] In other words, Meretz will get the education portfolio, which means that Shulamit Aloni is the education minister.

[Harish] I believe that is how the current process will end.

[Sukenik] Is Tzomet definitely in?

[Harish] Not definitely, although we want Tzomet to be in the government very much. We want both Meretz and Tzomet, because the voters—mainly the young ones—have made a statement that gave us and those two parties a lion's share of the Likud's votes. [passage omitted]

[Sukenik] What about building starts in the territories? That issue has come up during the coalition negotiations, and there has been talk of 20,000 building starts. Will building continue or stop?

[Harish] In this context, rearranging national priorities is a preeminent task, because construction uses up huge sums of the Israeli taxpayer's money. If we want to rearrange priorities and to start investing in the creation of jobs, in reducing unemployment, and in helping newlyweds and demilitarized soldiers in the Galilee, the Negev, and every other place where unemployment is rampant, where 90 percent of the Israeli population lives, then we will have to divert funds from the territories, where only 10 percent of the Israeli population lives. That means we will reexamine the issue of building starts. However, we have to act responsibly, too....

[Sukenik, interrupting] Excuse me, the start of your answer was slightly different from its end. The beginning of your answer implied that we will be unable to invest in the territories, but then you said: We will reexamine.

[Harish] I will tell you what we will reexamine. There are two elements: First, we will have to examine the legal aspects and see what part of the 1992 budget can be altered. In the 1993 budget, everything can be altered, but as for 1992, commitments were made, and we will have to check and see how many of those can be changed. The second element is the economic aspect, the cost—in terms of compensation—of the halt of construction. In some areas, construction will be completed—and security reasons will be one of the factors we will consider—and in other places we will insist on stopping. By the way, there are places even inside the Green Line where we will have to stop construction, signed contracts notwithstanding, because more housing units there will be pointless and we will prefer to compensate the injured parties. There are places inside Israel where flats and mobile homes remain empty because jobs are unavailable. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Am I to understand that there will be no completion of 20,000 housing starts under your government?

[Harish] We are certainly not promising the completion of 20,000 housing starts, because that would mean carrying on all the current investments in the territories. That would mean no change in priorities. The answer, therefore, is that there is no commitment to continue that. By the way, there is no demand that we pledge to complete 20,000 housing units. The current negotiations are around what is to continue and what is not.

[Ronen] Do you mean you are discussing what should be considered as a building start that is to be completed?

[Harish] Also what areas are significant from the security viewpoint.

[Ronen] Another example, Mikha Harish, of your party's possibly deliberate haziness, is the settlement freeze issue. If I am not mistaken, there is an explicit Labor Convention resolution saying that settlements, both political and security, will be frozen for a year from start of the peace negotiations.

[Sukenik] Furthermore, the Labor platform for the 13th Knesset says: No new settlements will be established. Period.

[Ronen] Well, is that resolution binding? Will there be no settlements for a year at least?

[Sukenik] Either political or nonpolitical?

[Harish] Let us differentiate between new settlements and a freeze. The decision to set up new settlements is made by governments. We will have a majority in any possible coalition. In this government, we will be alone against all the other components. There will be 44 of us versus 36 at most, if you add up Meretz, Tzomet, all the ultraorthodox parties, and the NRP [National Religious Party]. For that reason, there are things we leave for the future, for our power to carry things through; words are less necessary to us now. Note that we are now leaving behind the doctrine of words and moving on to a doctrine of deeds. To sum up, we will have the majority to decide whether to set up new settlements.

There is a political aspect to all this: our ties with the United States. Our government guidelines include clauses saying we will not take steps hindering the peace process, and that we regard the resumption [as heard] of relations and the termination of the crisis with the United States as our key stand. A combination of all those facts will give you the answer to the settlement question.

[Ronen] Can you pledge that settlements will be frozen for one year?

[Harish] We have answered that by changing the economic priorities, which is the key issue. Obviously, when you accord top priority to the Galilee and the Negev, and to the unemployment centers inside the Green Line, when businessmen invest here rather than in the territories....[changes thought] At the same time, our platform speaks of strengthening settlement in the Jordan Rift Valley, the Golan Heights, along confrontation lines, and we insist on those. Our argument with Meretz revolves around that. Therefore, the freeze is not going to be absolute. True, we will do nothing provocative that is liable to bring on a confrontation with the United States, because we want to get the guarantees that are crucial to the Israeli economy. I think the Likud is now sorry for each time they set up a provocative settlement during Baker's visits, as that brought them to their present state.

[Ronen] If the freeze is not absolute, that means the resolution of the party convention will not be adhered to.

[Harish] I think our government will be walking on very sound ground, from the viewpoint of the party convention. We will bring the guidelines up for the approval of the party's Central Committee, and I assume that if we form a government on the basis of those guidelines, we will muster quite good support in the Labor party. [passage omitted]

SHAS To Conclude Negotiations

TA0807112592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Council of Torah Scholars has instructed Interior Minister Arye Der'i to conclude the coalition negotiations with the Labor party today.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that SHAS officials said they have been promised the Interior Ministry. SHAS is also demanding another two deputy ministers, one of which is to be in the Education Ministry.

Tzaban Elected for Ministerial Post

TA0907101492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jul 92 p A4

[Report by Yehudit Gruenblatt, Lili Galili, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Knesset Member [MK] Ya'ir Tzaban was yesterday elected by MAPAM's [United Workers Party] Central Committee as the party's ministerial candidate in the Meretz faction. Meretz is currently holding negotiations to join a Labor government. In reaction, Eli'ezer Ronen, who ran against Tzaban and lost, threatened to resign from his post as MAPAM chairman.

Tzaban, who supports the complete union of MAPAM with the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] and Shinuy [the two other parties which make up Meretz], will serve in the next government as a cabinet minister and an MK, after having garnered 64.5 percent of the vote. Ronen, who considers the union an electoral pact that should be reexamined in the future, won 29.8 percent. Me'ir Pa'il, the third candidate, won only 5.2 percent of the vote. Of the 582 Central Committee members, 455 voted in the election, which took place at Kibbutz Shefayim. [passage omitted]

Meretz MK Yosi Sarid yesterday morning announced that he was withdrawing his candidacy for a ministerial post in the next government. Sarid noted that he had asked the Meretz negotiating team to remove its demand for four cabinet portfolios. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses Peace Talks, Anti-Semitism

TA0907055492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin spoke [last night] of his new government's basic policy priorities. He was answering a question put by satellite link from a delegate to the international conference on anti-Semitism, which has wound up in Brussels. Rabin was asked what he hopes to do first.

[Begin Rabin recording] No doubt that the hard work is ahead of me. I believe that what I said during the election campaign, and what I am saying since then, will have to advance along two lines in parallel. The first one is to create in the framework of the Madrid conference, on the basis of what has been done so far, more and many more ideas how to advance the negotiations with the purpose to reach an agreement about the establishment of autonomy, of self-rule, to the Palestinians in the territories. No doubt, we will continue with the contacts with the other delegations, but I see in this issue, one of the most important and hopefully attainable goals that might change the whole atmosphere in the region. For me, there is no difference between peace and security. The purpose of the achievement of peace is to get to the people and to the State of Israel more security. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 9 July in a similar report adds that Rabin noted that Israel "must change its national order of priorities and place the war against unemployment at the top of the list." Rabin stressed that Israel "will have to receive financial resources from overseas. Without the loan guarantees it will be very difficult to recharge our economy and create new jobs." Commenting on anti-Semitism, Rabin said that "it has always been part of the history of the Jewish people" and "although it will never disappear, we must bring it down to a minimum." He noted that one of the ways of doing this is to set new moral standards for our behavior. Speaking in English, Rabin called for "certain standards, moral standards of behavior within our own country and vis-a-vis the non-Jewish population in Israel, and to the extent that it is possible, vis-a-vis the Palestinians in the territories, short of our security needs."]

EEC-Palestinian Housing Accord Signed

TA0907102492 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpts] A first agreement between the EEC and the Housing Council, a Palestinian institution operating under the auspices of the Palestinian delegation, was signed in East Jerusalem yesterday. According to the agreement, the EEC will grant the territories some $35 million in aid for housing projects. Thomas Dupla signed the agreement on behalf of the EEC while Ibrahim Sha'ban signed it on behalf of the Housing Council. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, was present at the ceremony and endorsed a "document of understanding." [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources reported that the money will be given only in October, and it is possible that even then it will be given in small installments. At present, the EEC is willing to allocate only small sums for slim spending on the location of sites and so on. The sources noted that although al-Husayni was present at the signing ceremony, he is not a party to the agreement.

Thomas Dupla, the EEC representative in the territories, arrived in Israel four days ago with the draft agreements after having held up signing for a long time. In his early contacts with the Palestinians, he demanded that they establish a reliable institution with which the EEC could work. It appears that the EEC still does not believe that such an institution has been established, and the ceremony was meant to provide some momentum following the elections in Israel.

Upon his arrival, Dupla conferred with Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, and his deputy Freddy Zakh. Defense establishment sources reported that in the meeting, Dupla asked that state-owned lands be thawed for the construction of housing projects. The Civil Administration responded that it is not rejecting the request and that it is very probable that, for the first time, state-owned lands would be allocated for Palestinian housing needs. [passage omitted]

Shoval Comments on Loan Guarantee Possibilities

TA0907110492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Designate Rabin is due to visit Washington in the near future and meet with President Bush. The two will discuss the peace process and the loan guarantees Israel has requested from the United States. Israel's ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval, remains confident that the guarantees will be approved. Connie Lonn reports:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] Ambassador Shoval told us the $10 billion loan guarantee request is still under consideration by the Bush administration. He expects it will be reactivated soon, perhaps during a visit by Prime Minister Rabin.

[Shoval] I can really only repeat conventional wisdom in that respect. We have heard, as have some our friends, over the last few weeks that the loan guarantees request is still on the table of the administration. As in the details, if you remember, we, the Israeli Government, have always said that we have not withdrawn our request and that we hope that its time will come, perhaps under different conditions—and maybe there are different conditions now. This will remain to be seen. I am cautiously optimistic about it. There are all sorts of rumors, which I believe are probably well-founded, that at an appropriate time there will be a meeting—hopefully it will be in the near future—between Israel's new prime minister, Rabin, and the President to discuss a variety of subjects, including the matter of loan guarantees. But I think there are more things on which both our countries will want to conduct a dialogue.

[Lonn] And that is where Shoval added he believes Israel will want to discuss its original request but the decision is up to the Congress. On the settlements, he said they would have been reduced by any Israeli Government because of the economic situation. We asked Ambassador Shoval about the upcoming U.S. elections and efforts to gain a pro-Israeli vote, but he declined comment on domestic issues. As for his own future, he said he hopes to continue to serve his nation as he may be asked to do. [end recording]

Admiral on Arab Navies, Search for Submarine

TA0707144892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Rear Admiral Mikha Ram, the outgoing Navy commander, has said that the Navy will play a major role in deterring countries that possess surface-to-surface missiles but do not share a border with Israel. According to him, this is one of the main lessons the Navy has learned from the Gulf war. He added that the Arab navies are growing stronger. Saudi Arabia has purchased French-made frigates and missiles; Libya has constructed one of the largest navies in the Mediterranean; Egypt is purchasing equipment; and Iran has purchased three submarines. He noted that the Syrian Navy poses the greatest threat to Israel because, among other things, it recently equipped itself with 27 naval warfare helicopters.

Rear Admiral Ram further said that there are new directions in the searches for the missing submarine Daqar. According to him, there is no new information, but the means of search have been upgraded.

He added that over the past three years five rubber boats with terrorists were destroyed and five speedboats were sunk. In these operations, 26 terrorists were killed and 40 were taken captive. Our correspondent Karmela

Menashe reports that Admiral Ram made the remarks in a briefing to military correspondents.

IAF General on Purchase of Fighter Aircraft

TA0507141792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jul 92 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Sometime in 1993 the Israel Air Force [IAF] will decide which plane to purchase in the future: the F-18, manufactured by McDonnell Douglas, or the F-16, manufactured by General Dynamics.

Major General Herzl Bodinger, the IAF's chief, has for the first time said that if both planes have identical features he would rather the IAF purchase the cheapest. In a recent interview with BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, Gen. Bodinger said that at $40 million the F-18 is 1.5 times costlier than the F-16, which costs $25 million.

Bodinger said the IAF plans to buy two squadrons, the cost of which is still unknown because the negotiations have not yet begun. He noted that the defense establishment has $2 billion in U.S. aid at its disposal for this deal.

Bodinger added that under certain circumstances the IAF might initially buy the F-16 and then buy the F-18 later. At the same time, he noted, one must not forget that both jets will at some point become outdated and may cease having any market potential by the year 2000.

McDonnell Douglas recently proposed sending an F-18 to Israel to have IAF pilots check and test it before a final decision is made. The IAF will presumably accept the proposal. It is believed that McDonnell Douglas pilots will come along to help their Israeli colleagues check it out.

Senior IAF sources noted that Israel's acceptance of the proposal was very important, because up until now most of the IAF's testing before a purchase has been done abroad.

Five New Pilotless Planes Unveiled

TA0807113892 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 6 Jul 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dani Shalom]

[Excerpts] The Electronics and Aviation Systems [EAS] company has unveiled five recently developed mini-UAV's [unmanned aerial vehicles] fitted out for civilian and military applications.

The five single- and twin-engined UAV's are equipped with outstanding command and control systems. They are suitable for military use from platoon range to strategic tasks and have a wide choice of civilian applications, including policing, surveillance, target detection, and others. [passage omitted]

The Vanguard is a twin-engine UAV designed particularly for civilian applications, including surveillance, patrol, real-time video photography, and others. The price of a system comprising a command and control system, a ground control station, and four UAV's is about $1 million.

Another UAV, the Minivanguard, was developed last year by EAS and is used as a training vehicle for standard Vanguard operators who are taught to fly and operate the UAV's systems. After a number of flights, however, it was learned that thanks to its performance and payload, it can be used as an operational civil and military UAV. Its control systems are based on those of the Vanguard, but with a reduced capacity. The minimodel first took off in May 1992.

Another unveiled new UAV model was the Crow—a multirole, single-engine vehicle for civilian and military uses. It is smaller than the Vanguard and has its own command and control systems. The development of this UAV was initiated in the wake of lessons learned in the Gulf war. This vehicle, too, has a minimodel used for the training of flight operators. The Minicrow, too, is single engined.

The smallest UAV under development is the Snooper, which looks like an advanced glider with an engine. Complying with U.S. Army requirements, it has been adapted to applications at the platoon and regiment level and will be able to function independently on the front line, transmitting real-time visual "over the horizon" intelligence. The entire system can be operated by two soldiers. The Snooper has two powering options, including an electric engine.

The latest model developed by the company is the Firefly, a short-range UAV for battlefield use. The UAV was modeled after the Snooper and will be about one-third bigger.

IDF Outpost in Golan Attacked by RPG's

TA0807194392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Several RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades] were fired last night at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost in southern Golan Heights, in the vicinity of the triangle where the three borders meet. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Outpost personnel returned fire. Subsequent searches revealed two RPG launchers, two bombs, six hand grenades, a Kalashnikov rifle, ammunition, and leaflets of Hizballah-Palestine, the Palestinian faction of the Islamic Jihad headed by Ahmad Muhana, which operates primarily in Lebanon. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the terrorists had evidently come from Jordan.

After debriefing the troops, the Northern Command commander commended the outpost personnel's reaction.

Undercover Soldier Killed by Friendly Fire

TA0907044892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Eli Isha, a soldier from the Duvdevan undercover unit, was killed last night by friendly fire involving another force from the same unit. This operational accident took place in the course of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity in northern Samaria. The investigation into the circumstances of this operational accident are continuing. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The IDF described this as an operational accident involving an undercover unit in the village of Barta'ah in northern Samaria. The Duvdevan undercover unit was operating in the area against armed terrorist gangs from Janin. This was a complex operation to capture wanted men carrying firearms. The operation took place at night, and only a small number of troops participated. In the course of the activity, Sergeant Eli Isha, a 19 and a half-year-old soldier from Beersheba, was shot and killed by IDF gunfire. His family was notified.

Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, and Brigadier General Moshe Ya'alon, commander of IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria, arrived at the scene and conducted an initial debriefing of the officers and soldiers. The investigation indicated that this was an operational accident as reported by the IDF spokesman. [passage omitted]

Muslim Clergy in Territories Found Association

TA0607111292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 92 p A3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] The foundation of the Association of Religious Sages in Palestine, uniting Muslim clerics in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, was announced in Jerusalem last Thursday [2 July]. Sources close to the PLO believe its establishment was inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The 77 founding members of the association, most of them from the West Bank, include men known to be senior activists in the Muslim Brotherhood and its offshoot Hamas (born during the intifadah), as well as clerics in junior positions in the religious establishment in the territories. The founding members do not include prominent clergymen, such as senior members of the waqf and the Supreme Islamic Council.

The goals set by the association are: raising and spreading religious Islamic consciousness through the establishment of mosques, classes to teach the Koran, and libraries; issuing religious decrees on religious and social problems; setting up reconciliation committees to settle conflicts; uniting religious sages and enhancing their social role; and extending professional and economic aid to clerics.

The establishment of the association may attest to Hamas' plans to found institutions similar to those of its PLO rivals.

Response to Settlement Campaign Detailed

TA0607113192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 92 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Judy Maltz]

[Excerpts] Since the elections, some 200 families have signed contracts to buy houses within the framework of the "Settling the Heartland" campaign organized by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and the Construction and Housing Ministry. So far, 2,327 purchasers have signed contracts with the Shikun Upitu'ah company, private firms, the settlements themselves, and Bar Amana (Gush Emunim's building company). At the same time, 20 families have announced their intention to cancel their contracts as a result of the elections. [passage omitted]

The campaign has been under way for three months. According to data supplied by the organizers, one-third of the apartments currently up for sale (6,500) have been sold at an average of 800 apartments a month: 1,372 in 56 settlements organized in regional councils and 955 in eight large urban locations. Only 124 apartments were sold in the Gaza Strip, while 2,203 were sold in the West Bank. Some 50 percent of the apartments sold are located in so-called hinterland settlements, while the remaining 50 percent are located in areas defined as the peripheries of Israel's central region and Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Receives Iraqi Vice President

JN0807140292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1338 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Amman, 8 Jul (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, received here today Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi vice president and Revolution Command Council member.

Taha Yasin Ramadan told an INA correspondent in Amman that he had conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and his excellency's appreciation for the position of Jordan—its king, government, and people—toward Iraq. Ramadan added that his majesty the king had also asked him to convey his regards to President Saddam Husayn. He added: We briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the reconstruction drive being undertaken in Iraq.

Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that during the meeting, they reasserted the two countries' determination to safeguard sovereignty and dignity and to face the plotting against them in a way that enhances the independence of the two states. The two sides agreed on the need to continue meetings and dialogue on all levels to promote and develop relations between the two fraternal nations.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs; and Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraq's ambassador in Amman.

Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Amman yesterday evening on his way back to Baghdad, after representing Iraq in Sudan's celebrations on the third anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

Iraqi Envoy Arrives on 'Special Mission'

NC0807151592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The Jordanian capital has been witnessing intense and extraordinary political and military activity since the announcement of a failed coup attempt against the ostracized tyrant's regime. A responsible Iraqi opposition source has reported that Taha al-Jazrawi arrived in Amman today, personally entrusted with a special mission by tyrant Saddam Husayn. Jordanian sources have leaked reports that al-Jazrawi wants to discuss the failed coup and King Husayn's connection with the operation.

Earlier reports said that the ostracized tyrant met his senior regime officials and informed them that King Husayn, cooperating and coordinating with U.S. intelligence, is involved in a major conspiracy against the regime. King Husayn denied these accusations and denied any connection with the attempt.

Meanwhile, political observers in Amman have noticed the presence of American and Western intelligence elements and political figures in Amman since the announcement of the failed coup attempt. Sources close to the Jordanian Government expect very important developments with respect to efforts to tighten the blockade on the tyrant regime from Jordan.

Husayn's Remarks on Kingdom's 'Dilemma' Noted

JN0907065592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9-10 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Despite the concern of the people and government of Jordan over the suffering of the Iraqi people, the Kingdom is committed to enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq, and this dilemma does not seem to be understood in the West, His Majesty King Husayn has said.

The King, in an interview with the Associated Press, also reiterated Jordan's policy of noninterference in the affairs of other countries and that the Kingdom, would not allow anyone to interfere in its affairs. King Husayn said he did not know whether there had been an attempt to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn by the military or not. "Most of the reporting on this has come from outside the region—which is rather strange," he said. "obviously something must have happened in Baghdad-...but its importance, its relevancy, is not clear."

The King also reaffirmed that Jordan would not be pressured into allowing the stationing of U.N. observers into Jordan to monitor the Kingdom's enforcement of sanctions against Iraq. "We will not be treated as suspects... who are in need of observation and supervision," the King said in the interview, conducted Tuesday.

Jordan has rejected an American proposal to station up to 50 U.N. inspectors to monitor the flow of goods into Iraq, saying that would violate the Kingdom's sovereignty. "Jordan has been singled out and pressured to accept things that nobody else has been asked to accept," the King told the AP in the interview, conducted by Middle East news editored Blanche [as published]. "There is a tremendous media barrage resulting from a lack of intimate knowledge of what's happening..." the King said. "Jordan has been targeted because people have many misconceptions."

"There is a tremendous effort being made to discredit this country, its leadership, its democracy and what it stands for," the King told the AP. "So we've had to take...a very clear stand against anything that further implies that this country is not doing what it should do," he said. "We accepted to implement the Security Council resolutions. We've done so despite the fact that it was not easy emotionally where it affected the people of Iraq. But we've tried our best to adhere to these sanctions and implement them." But, "having adopted these resolutions...we will not have our sovereignty questions [as published]. We're a proud people and we will not compromise."

He stressed that Jordan's policy is one of "non-interference in all other states, the same way we've always resisted interference in our own affairs."

He said that "there's another dimension," not understood in the West. "That is that the people of Jordan, together with the government, are concerned about the Iraqi people...and their suffering."

Jordan, with no natural resources, is hurting badly too. It has lost an estimated $5 billion of [as published] the crisis and things look like getting worse. "It breaks my heart to see that," the King lamented. "But this country has a lot of guts. "Certainly we will apologise if there's a need to apologize-...but there's nothing for us to apologize for."

According to the AP, Western diplomats and intelligence officials stationed to monitor Iraq believe that significant amounts of material the Iraqi Government of President Saddam is using to rebuild the country are flowing in from Syria, Turkey and Iran.

According to the news agency, "the impression here is that the Americans cannot get tough with coalition partners Turkey and Syria—Damascus is vital to the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process—and has no clout with Iran anyway."

Spokesman Denies Report on Talks With Israel

JN0807150792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The Jordanian official spokesman expressed deep regret over what the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM's political editor published today. and fully denied the contents of the report.

The spokesman said that the way the report was written and published emphasizes the bad intentions of AL-AHRAM's political editor, whose newspaper did not hesitate to publish his report without the slightest scrutiny.

The official spokesman hoped that AL-AHRAM and its political editor, will not follow the examples of newspapers that lack credibility, do not respect the awareness of reader, or does not even enjoy the respect of the reader.

AL-AHRAM published a fabricated story about secret talks between a Jordanian delegation and the next Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Islamist Statements Criticize Rabin, Fatah

JN0807104992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan has described the Israeli Labour Party as more "dangerous and more malicious" than the Likud bloc and called on Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims to mobilise forces, confront and thwart the Middle East peace process.

In a statement issued Monday by the Islamic movement parliamentary office, the Brotherhood said that the only difference between Yitzhaq Shamir's Likud and Yitzhaq Rabin's Labour was that while the first wanted to settle Jews all over the occupied territories, the latter chooses strategic areas that would allow Israel to continue its hold on all of Palestine and the Golan Heights.

The statement recalled that it was Mr. Rabin who led the Israeli army in the 1967 war "and occupied Jerusalem," and that he, as defence minister in 1988, was the proponent of Israel's iron-fist policy in the occupied territories. Mr. Rabin ordered the Israeli army to break Palestinians bones to stop the intifada, it recalled.

The statement said Mr. Rabin would only offer the Palestinians a "skeleton self-rule" followed by Camp-David-like accords with Syria and Jordan.

"That would be done at the expense of giving up 80 per cent of Palestine for the sake of international legitimacy," the statement said.

"Let us all, ye masses of the nation, join our forces to bring down Rabin and the defeatest policy," the statement said.

In another statement also Tuesday, the Brotherhood accused Fatah, the main faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), of waging a campaign that aims at reducing the influence of Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, in the occupied territories.

"The brotherhood deputies, together with the Muslim Brotherhood...warn (Fatah) against continuing their plot and call for putting out the fires that will ultimately swallow those who started it," the statement said.

The statement was referring to a clash between the groups in the Gaza town of Bani Suhaylah on Friday, when Fatah members confronted a Gaza family and demanded to talk with a son active with Hamas. The family responded with stones and the Fatah activisits opened fire, wounding five in the family.

However, the Brotherhood statement said that four Fatah members entered the home of Dr Muhammad Saqr, the head of the Islamic University, while he was receiving condolences over the death of his mother, and opened fire on members of the family.

The Islamic movement parliamentary office, according to the statement, has tried to reconcile Fatah and Hamas in Amman and to convince Fatah to dismiss its plans to limit the strength of Hamas. "We presented the two sides with documents that no side could deny which provided evidence that a policy is in place to contain Hamas," the statement added.

In a dispatch from occupied Jerusalem, AL-QUDS press reported Tuesday that Fatah and Hamas had reached a new agreement to reduce tension between the two factions. The two agreed to "end all sorts of antagonising and escalating acts," the AL-QUDS press quoting from the agreement signed by the two.

Abu-Nidal Official Murdered in al-Biqa'

NC0907114892 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Shtawrah, Lebanon, July 9 (AFP)—A gunman using a silencer shot dead an official of Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] extremist Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley on Thursday, police said.

The gunman pumped four bullets into the chest of Bahij Abu-al-Hana, 43, as he returned at dawn to his home at Ta'lbaya. Abu-al-Hana was the head of the Abu-Nidal organization in the al-Biqa' and his death came amid splits within the group, which is violently opposed to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir 'Arafat.

The FRC, which was expelled from Syria in June 1987, has offices in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon.

Al-Sulh on Saudi Visit, Development Bank Meeting

NC0907054992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh has described his visit to Saudi Arabia as successful, noting that it ironed out many differences with the Islamic International Development Bank's [IDB] management. He pointed out that the Lebanon aid fund will begin to play its role soon. He also expressed his hope for a quick solution to the problem of displaced people. Al-Sulh said:

[Begin recording] [al-Sulh] My visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the IDB meeting was successful. I attended the bank's meeting on (?Saturday) and participated in the discussions. I delivered a clear statement on Lebanese issues, especially the issue of the south. I told the conferees that (?our) brothers in southern Lebanon are holding out, fighting, and enduring Israeli strikes not only in defense of southern Lebanon and their homeland, but in defense of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The bank agreed to approve loans on very easy terms and extend financial aid to Lebanon in accordance with previous agreements, some of which have been concluded and others which have yet to be signed [words indistinct].

Frankly, this visit ironed out many problems with the IDB management. I hope that funds will soon reach the appropriate Lebanese departments and ministries for such purposes as building a public hospital in Beirut, building schools and cold storage facilities in al-Biqa', and repairing telephones and other government facilities.

I also met with Saudi officials, including Interior Minister Shaykh (?Nayif), with whom I discussed the condition of Lebanese expatriates in Saudi Arabia and restrictions preventing them from uniting with their families in the Kingdom. This is a problem affecting Lebanese residing in the Kingdom [words indistinct]. His highness the amir promised to remove all obstacles preventing these families from travelling to the Kingdom to see their relatives, in-laws, sons, and husbands who work in Saudi Arabia.

Later, Prince Sultan invited me to lunch. In the evening, I met with his majesty, the custodian of the two holy mosques. We discussed the situation in Lebanon, particularly southern Lebanon. We also discussed the need to provide Lebanon with financial and economic support to help it continue progressing and restoring its financial and living conditions, and stand fast in the face of the Israeli occupation and repeated aggressions against southern Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] the issue of opening a Saudi embassy in Beirut?

[al-Sulh] We discussed all issues concerning relations between our two countries, but the aim of my visit was to attend the Islamic Development Bank meeting. [end recording]

Buwayz Views Arab League Meeting, Resolution 425

NC0807122992 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has praised Egyptian-Lebanese relations and Egypt's firm stand in support of Lebanon's just demands. In an interview with the Voice of the Arabs Radio, Buwayz pointed out that this stand is not unusual, coming from Egypt, a country of principles.

On the Arab League Council's resolutions on Lebanon, Buwayz said the league meeting has four dimensions: First, it consolidated the common Arab responsibility on the situation in southern Lebanon, because events in the south reflect territorial, regional, and international problems. Thus, the Arab League, he added, set a mechanism for following up the situation in the south and for contacting the international quarters concerned with this issue. The second resolution [as heard] reinforced several earlier resolutions underscoring the common Arab responsibility for rebuilding Lebanon, based on Lebanon being an Arab state that has contributed to culture, literature, economy, politics, and development in the Arab world. These two resolutions, he added, restore the integrity and effectiveness of the Arab League as an Arab home where Arab affairs and concerns are settled; this is the third dimension. The fourth dimension concerns restoring Arab solidarity. The meeting, he added, was a good start for opening the door to activating inter-Arab relations.

On the Arab League's resolution calling for applying Article 7 of the UN Charter to force Israeli to implement UN Resolution 425, Buwayz said the international community's credibility is facing some kind of test. This community seeks to establish a just and comprehensive Middle East peace and speaks about a new world order and the need to implement Security Council resolutions,

particularly Resolution 425, which is clear-cut and integrated and has an unambiguous implementation mechanism; it cannot be misinterpreted. This resolution could be the easiest one to implement and could pave the way for consolidating the credibility of the peace conference, he added. I believe the world wants to close the southern Lebanon file and prove its credibility by implementing this resolution, he added.

'Chaotic' Media Situation Discussed

NC0307162692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jul 92

[Text] George Sa'adah, minister of posts and telecommunications, this morning met with French expert (Marie Huellait), a representative of the International Telecommunications Union [ITU] in charge of examining the status of radio and television stations in Lebanon. Engineer Maurice Ghazal, Lebanon's permanent representative to the ITU, also attended the meeting. According to informed sources, discussions centered on the status of Lebanese radio and television stations, the frequencies they use, and ways of organizing them and coordinating their operations so Lebanon does not exceed its share as specified by ITU conferences to avoid any negative effects on other regional stations.

The sources added that a report prepared by (Kanchez), a former ITU envoy, on radio and television frequencies in Lebanon was reviewed at the meeting. The report states that Lebanon has the right to operate six AM frequencies; however, dozens of stations are currently operating in this range only two of which registered with the ITU. The report adds that, according to the ITU Geneva Conference of 1984, Lebanon has the right to operate 36 FM frequencies. Currently there are 146 FM stations operating in Lebanon, 110 of which are operating illegally. The report says that according to the Stockholm Conference of 1961, Lebanon has the right to operate 28 television stations. There are currently 46 Lebanese television stations operating here and applications to operate 56 others have been submitted. Only two these have been registered with the ITU.

The report explains that this chaotic situation has caused huge disruptions to the reception of other regional stations in violation of ITU resolutions.

Minister Sa'adah asked the French expert to devote six weeks to examining the issue and asked him to draw up a detailed report that will be used to organize all these services in accordance with international standards and Lebanon's rights. He placed at her disposal all information available to his ministry, stipulating that she should include in her report all necessary proposals to permit Lebanon to keep abreast of the rest of the world development in this area.

During the meeting, Minister Sa'adah telephoned Information Minister Michel Samahah to set up a 4 July meeting with the French expert and Eng. Ghazal for further discussions on this issue.

British, U.S. Equipment Contracted for Army

NC0207134192 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Jun 92 p 3

[Report by Ibrahim al-Amin]

[Excerpts] Lebanon has concluded two contracts to buy British and American equipment for the Lebanese Army. The equipment is due to start arriving in July, after the shipment formalities have been completed. Another arms deal, with France, has been delayed until Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh's visit to Paris in July. The prime minister will be accompanied on this visit by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, who will negotiate with the French.

According to cabinet minutes, five British gunboats and spare parts will be purchased for 730,000 pounds sterling. In addition, some used U.S. military equipment will be purchased for $200,000 [figure as published]. Packing and shipping the U.S. equipment will cost another $350,000. [passage omitted]

Under an 18 March cabinet decision, which approved the purchase of five gunboats from the Royal Navy, a request was submitted to take part in the auction of these gunboats and their spare parts and equipment. On 27 March, the British military attache in Beirut sent a letter saying that the Lebanese Government had won the auction in accordance with the request, which was signed by the minister of defense, at a cost of only 730,000 pounds. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Political Bureau Elects New Members

NC0707125892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau has elected four new members to its ranks. The new members are Lawyer Salah Matar; Simon Khazin, general director of the Voice of Lebanon radio; Sam'an Karam; and Michel Jabbur. [passage omitted]

The new members were elected from a list of eight names supplied by party leader Dr. George Sa'adah. [passage omitted]

The voting took place at the first meeting of the newly formed Political Bureau at 1245 today at the Phalangist Party's summer headquarters. [passage omitted]

U.S. Cancelling of Customs Privileges Criticized

JN0807103992 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 Jun 92 p 8

[Article by Fu'ad Mardud: "The Unjust Decision"]

[Text] Last week, the U.S. Congress approved a draft resolution put forward by the Bush administration canceling certain customs privileges on Syrian textile exports to the United States under the pretext that Syrian workers have not yet attained their full rights.

Although this American decision will not affect Syrian exports, which find their way to new markets every day, since trade between the two countries is not at its best due to other similar U.S. decisions, it is useful to shed light on the reality of the labor situation in Syria and compare it with that of other countries to show the damage caused by that American decision.

Workers in Syria are an important sector of the society. They enjoy their full rights, and have duties like workers in other sectors. Their organization is a first-class trade union and is also a popular organization playing its role in the country's public life, defending workers' rights, and working to improve their living and labor conditions. It has managed to eliminate the disease of unemployment, which ruins other societies and creates many social problems, particularly in advanced countries like the United States, where unemployment has reached record levels and poses a threat to the U.S. president himself in his presidential election campaign.

We do not claim that workers in Syria are in perfect shape or that they have attained all they want to guarantee their future and that of their sons. It is enough to say, however, that the streets of Damascus and other cities are not home for displaced people and their families, as in many countries, particularly America, in places like Brooklyn, Los Angeles, and scores of other cities.

The American decision is unjust and biased because it does not take into account man's basic needs, which were disregarded by the authors of the report or reports on which this unjust decision was based.

This decision is very strange and involves more than trade exchanges and customs privileges. It is part of the pressure to which Syria has always been exposed.

Omani Information Minister Heads Delegation

Media Talks Held

JN0807124792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus—An official round of talks was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday evening between the information delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic led by Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman and the Omani information delegation led by Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas.

At the outset of the talks, Dr. Muhammad Salman welcomed the guest minister and his delegation, saying: We look forward to holding such meetings so that we may further advance the Arab nation's march and promote its pan-Arab causes in implementation of the directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id in the interest of the people in both countries and also to vindicate their future aspirations.

The minister affirmed the importance of holding such meetings, coordinating stands, and making serious contributions to the new world order, which is currently being promoted. He added that we must play an effective role in this order so that we may become effective partners in world affairs and events. He also noted that we must work to attain Arab solidarity.

The minister touched on the Arab-Israeli conflict, saying: It is not a Syrian-Israeli conflict, but rather an Arab-Israeli conflict. As for us, the Arabs, we must show unity so that we may tell the world, which has begun to understand the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict, that these territories are Arab and that Israeli rulers are standing in the way of peace and impeding efforts to achieve it.

Dr. Salman also spoke of the historical bilateral ties binding the two fraternal countries, Syria and Oman, and also of their common goals and interests, explaining the role the media can play to enhance and bolster these ties.

Concluding his statement, Dr. Muhammad Salman emphasized the need for the media in both fraternal countries to epitomize the policy lines charted by leaders Hafiz al-Asad and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas then spoke. He expressed happiness over his visit to Damascus, the torchbearer of civilization, history, and Arabism. He added: We thank you for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to us. This is natural when one is among his kinfolk and loved ones.

Al-Rawwas affirmed the need for joint Arab action, indicating that the media have a role to play in achieving this solidarity, particularly since challenges have become numerous in this era. He expressed confidence that the common approaches being pursued by Syria, Oman, and the Arab nation will strengthen the Arabs in the face of these challenges.

The talks between the two delegations dealt with the means of developing and promoting media ties between Syria and the Sultanate of Oman in accordance with the directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id in the interest of the Arab people in both Syria and Oman. The talks also dealt

with the ways and means of enhancing news and program exchange and promoting the multifaceted bilateral media cooperation.

Meets With Prime Minister al-Zubi

JN0807151692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] At 1200 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and Omani Ambassador in Damascus 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Kharusi.

Talks dealt with fraternal bilateral relations which are witnessing continuing and constructive progress in various political, economic, cultural, artistic, and media sectors. These represent the strong links between the leadership and people of the two fraternal countries.

The prime minister was briefed on the talks held in Damascus by the Omani minister in the media sector and expressed his satisfaction with the talks, stressing the political, cultural, and media importance of this cooperation.

This meeting stressed the willingness of the two countries to enhance their fraternal relations using all effective means and forms and consolidating cooperation in all fields.

The talks also dealt with issues that have been the focus of attention at this meeting.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Reaffirms Armed Groups To Be Expelled

LD0807091792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Jul (KUNA)—In a press interview published here today, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani stressed his eagerness to see all armed men driven out of Kabul, even if it means using force.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper SAWT AL-KUWAYT, he said that this decision has been made and there is no going back on it. Rabbani warned the resistance groups that oppose the decision that his government, after driving out the armed elements, will seek to confine them to three areas outside the capital.

Replying to a question about the incident that led to his being slightly injured last Saturday evening, he said: We must make the people feel safe; it is our responsibility. Rabbani did not give any details about the incident that resulted in his personal bodyguard being killed and two others being injured by a shell that hit near the Presidency building.

Hezb-e Eslami Ready To Release Soviet POW's

BK0807143492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Islamabad, July 8 (AFP)—The party of radical Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar said Wednesday it was willing to swap Soviet prisoners of war (POW's) for Moslem fighters the Red Army captured during its occupation of Afghanistan.

The Hezb-e Eslami said in a statement that the party leadership was ready to exchange Mojahedin Commanders Hazrat Mohammad Ibrahim Mojaddedi, Isma'il Mojaddedi and their family members for Soviet POW's.

The Hezb-run AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA), releasing the communique, said the party believed these Afghans were jailed in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and that the party was waiting for "positive response" from the Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Governments.

Moscow has listed more than 300 soliders and officers as missing in action after the 10-year Soviet occupation of Afghanistan ended in 1989, while International Red Cross sources believe about 50 POW's, mostly Russians, are still in the custody of various Mojahedin groups.

Hekmatyar had earlier said about 40,000 Afghans are missing and the POW's could not be released until Moscow provided details about the Afghan prisoners.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has rejected this claim, but has also promised to help the Islamic government in Kabul to trace missing Afghans.

ANA said some of the missing Afghans were imprisoned in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and other republics of the former Soviet Union.

These republics should hold "face-to-face negotiations" with the Hezb leadership on the issue, it said, adding that Hekmatyar's pary was holding the highest number of Soviets captured during the Afghan war.

India

No-Confidence Motion Against Rao 15-16 Jul

BK0807075692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha is to take up the no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against the Narasimha Rao government on the 15th and the 16th of this month. This was announced by the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, in the house after more than 50 members belonging to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the National Front, the Left parties and their allies stood in support of the motion tabled by Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP. The speaker said in all, 26 notices of no-confidence motion have been received and according to the ballot Mr. Jaswant Singh's notice takes precedence. He admitted his motion after being satisfied of the requisite support to it.

Chinese Chemical Companies Seek Local Links

BK0807105592 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 92 p 14

[Text] Bombay—Chinese chemical companies are willing to join hands with their Indian counterparts to avoid undercutting in prices in the local market.

This was disclosed to newsmen by Mr. Huang Chenghua, leader of a Chinese delegation, at a meeting organised by the All-India Manufacturers Organisation (AIMO) here on Tuesday. "China has done two things to avoid competition, he said. "First, by sharing information with Indian companies on demand/supply, and second by exchanging visits of personnel."

The delegation has been sent by the Ministry of Chemical Industry of the People's Republic of China. Mr. Chenghua is vice-president of China New Chemical Materials Corporation.

The seven-member Chinese delegation is focussing on technology breakthroughs made by China in the areas of new chemicals, including those used in the construction industry, fine chemicals, and silicon materials. Mr. Chenghua pointed out that China was interested in technology transfer and joint ventures with Indian companies engaged in chemical business.

He said that Chinese chemical units were planning to invest in equity of Indian companies. Hydrogen peroxide, electronic chemicals, and engineering plastics were promising areas for cooperation between Chinese and Indian companies, he said.

The team have visited plants of several companies manufacturing chemicals, including Nocil, Reliance Petrochemicals, Indian Organics, Herdillia, and Grasim Industries. Mr. Chenghua said that a number of Indian companies had shown interest in hydrogen peroxide technology developed by China.

Mr. Hero J. Chuganee, chairman of the AIMO special council for chemicals and petrochemicals, said the Chinese team would meet Mr. M. S. Gill, secretary, petrochemicals on Delhi on June 26.

Funding Constraints To Cut Nuclear Power Output

BK0907092392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The minister of state for science and technology, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, said the target of generating 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power by 2000 AD cannot be achieved due to constraints of funds. He said an installed nuclear power capacity of 5,700 megawatts will be achieved by the turn of the century. The minister said the recent developments in the erstwhile USSR have brought about uncertainties in the setting up of two 1,000-megawatt reactors as per the intergovernmental agreement between the two countries signed in 1988. He however said that about 45,000 million units of electricity will be generated through nuclear power sources during the eighth five-year plan.

French Companies Agree To Sell Space Components

BK0807094692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] French aerospace companies have assured the Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, of supply of space components whose exports are banned by the United States. The assurance came during the meeting of the ISRO chief, Professor U.R. Rao, with the director of space of (Thomson CSF) and senior officers of the (Metro Corporation) in Paris last week. Both the companies said they will be able to sell components for ISRO's next series of ISR satellites.

Temple-Mosque Issue Causes Uproar in Lok Sabha

BK0807161892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha was adjourned thrice this afternoon following uproarious scenes after the home minister's statement on the Ayodhya developments. The opposition National Front and left parties and the Muslim League members wanted an assurance from Mr. Chavan that status quo will be maintained and the existing structures in Ayodhya will not be disturbed. The house was finally adjorned about 20 minutes ahead of schedule after repeated pleas by the chair to maintain order failed. The panel chairman, Mr. Sharad Dige, said floor leaders are meeting the speaker over the issue and urged the members to allow the business listed on the agenda. This, however, had no effect on the agitating members who persisted on their demand for an assurance from the government.

Earlier, several members moved into the well of the house and squatted there shouting slogans. The chair said they can raise a special discussion under the rules if they wanted more information. The home minister, however, clarified that the matter was pending before the Supreme Court and the Allahabad high court and will not be proper for the government to say anything on the issue. He said the government will have to wait for the court orders. Not satisfied, the members continued squatting in the well shouting slogans and the chair adjourned for 10 minutes. Pandemonium continued when the house reassembled and had to be adjourned for the second time.

Speaking to reporters shortly after the Lok Sabha adjourned, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, took strong exception to the home minister's statement. He said the statement maintains a threatening posture against the Uttar Pradesh government. Mr. Advani said his party's government in Uttar Pradesh will carry out its mandate of removing hurdles in the way of construction of the temple at Ayodhya without violating any court orders on the issue.

Parties Stage Walkout

BK0907040892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The Home Minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, yesterday assured the Rajya Sabha that the center will not allow any violation of the secular nature of the Constitution by the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] government on the controversial Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue.

Replying to clarification sought by opposition members on his written statement on the Ayodhya issue, Mr. Chavan said serious concern has been caused by recent reports about some construction work being carried out at the temple site. When opposition members wanted to know what action the center is taking to prevent the aggravation of the situation, Mr. Chavan said the government has a definite plan of action, but said he could not give the details at this stage. Not satisfied with the reply, the National Front and Left Combined staged a walkout from the house towards the fag-end of the sitting.

In Ayodhya, the levelling work of the land acquired by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department around the shilanyas [foundation stone] site of the disputed complex has been stepped up. The police control room at the entrance of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid complex has been shifted to another site.

Meanwhile, the state government has chalked out a plan for further strengthening the safety of the disputed structure. Tin sheets will be put up outside the barbed-wire fencing on the eastern and southern sides of the

structure. Visitors will be allowed inside through three barricaded corridors. People entering through the Ram Diwar [wall at disputed site] will be thoroughly searched and entry will be regulated in such a way that there is no rush at any time.

Commentary Urges Pakistan To Pursue Bilateralism

BK0307121492 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 3 Jul 92

[Commentary by political commentator S.C. Bhatt]

[Text] It is now 20 years since the then prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the then Pakistani president, Z.A. Bhutto, held summit talks in the wake of the Bangladesh liberation war. Pakistan's army was defeated by the joint force of the Indian armed forces and the freedom fighters of Bangladesh. More than 90,000 of Pakistan's troops led by their commander, Lieutenant General A.A. Niazi, surrendered to the Indian commander, Lt. Gen. J.S. Arora, in Dhaka, now the capital of Bangladesh.

India announced a unilateral cease-fire in the western sector within minutes of the surrender by the Pakistani army in the eastern sector. For the rulers in Islamabad and the people of what was now left of Pakistan it was a period of soul-searching. The military dictator, Gen. Yahya Khan, was overthrown and Mr. Z.A. Bhutto took over from him. The country had undergone a (?catalytic) change. Mr. Bhutto however blew hot and cold; talked of peace as well as war. But India took the victory in its stride. In fact, the Indian attitude was one of consolidation of forces of peace and ending the long chapter of conflict between the two close neighbors forever.

It was in this context that the prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, took the initiative to invite Mr. Z.A. Bhutto for talks. This was preceded by the visit to Islamabad of a high-level Indian official delegation. It was unique for a victorious nation to take the lead in holding peace talks. But India did it because she wanted to lay the foundation of a lasting relationship with Pakistan based on equality and the desire to settle all issues in a spirit of mutual accommodation and a bilateral fashion.

Despite all the ups and downs in India-Pakistan relations and negotiations the summit talks between Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Bhutto held in the north Indian hill station of Simla ended in just four days with an agreement. It has since come to be known as the Simla Agreement and has been hailed the world over as the sheet anchor of relations between the two neighboring countries. The agreement highlighted the desire of India and Pakistan to live in peace and end the story of conflict that they had gone through in the past quarter of century. Several principles were spelt out which would govern the conduct of relations. The most important of these was that the leaders of India and Pakistan pledged themselves to settle the differences between them, as per draft of the agreement, by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations or by any other means mutually agreed between them.

It is this emphasis on bilateralism which distinguished the Simla Agreement from anything done before by the two countries. Pakistan has often relied upon or sought to enlist the support of other powers on religious or political considerations. Now it committed herself to the renunciation of this attitude of playing some other nations against India. [sentence as heard] The agreement also provided that the two nations would abide by the Line of Control in Kashmir as it was on the day of the cease-fire in December 1971. India has striven hard to adhere to the agreement and settle all differences with Islamabad on a bilateral basis while respecting Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Alas, Pakistan has drifted a long way from Simla. It has honored the agreement more in its breach than its observance. Yet, as the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, declared at his press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday [30 June], it would be India's effort to keep talking with Pakistan. This, despite the fact that Pakistan has been interfering in India's internal affairs. It has been aiding and abetting the terrorists in Punjab and the secessionists in Kashmir.

The occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Simla Agreement should induce some soul-searching in Pakistan. It is facing internal crisis of gigantic proportions. In Sindh, one of its four provinces, there is virtual state of civil war and the Pakistani Army which has a reputation of dabbling in politics has been deployed there in large numbers. Illegal arms and drug smuggling are rampant throughout Pakistan. Many leading politicians are involved. Islamabad has to think hard and give up the policy of conflict with India. The Simla Agreement which has been praised by all the big powers and other nations affords a basis for resolving all issues between the two countries bilaterally and in a spirit of mutual give and take. Bilateralism, which was jointly pronounced at Simla, must be upheld.

Editorial on Pakistani Army's Crackdown in Sindh

BK0807113592 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Jun 92 p 8

[Editorial: "The Crisis in Sindh"]

[Text] The Pakistani Army's action in Sindh, billed as the first major crackdown on long-entrenched banditry, has acquired an unexpected political twist. Contrary to the critics' apprehension that the Pakistan People's Party led by Ms. Benazir Bhutto might suffer more at the hands of the Army than bandits, the target at the moment has turned out to be the Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM]. Since this party, representing the Urdu-speaking emigrants from India, has dominated the politics of the two major cities of Sindh, Karachi and Hyderabad, it has so far been seen as the major rival of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. The Sindhis in general and the PPP in particular have thus good reason to

be satisfied with the blow dealt at the MQM by the Army. The political significance of the exposure by the Army of the terroristic methods adopted by the MQM is obvious. Most shocking is the revelation of a network of torture cells maintained by the MQM. This and other details now known about the internal working of the MQM show that it had virtually become a state within a state. In the light of these disclosures, most of the frequent outbreaks of gruesome violence in the urban areas of Sindhh in recent years must be attributed to what can best be described as the Mohajir mafia. The high-pitched propaganda of the MQM under the leadership of Altaf Hussain, who has spent most of the time in London, ostensibly for medical treatment, has so far been that the al-Zulfiqar, in cahoots with the PPP activists, the Sindh separatists and, of course, "Indian agents," were responsible for Sindh's endemic lawlessness. It is time thinking Pakistanis realised that all this was a charade to shield the really guilty men.

The army leadership in Islamabad could not have been unaware earlier of the havoc played by the MQM goons. In fact the MQM has all along been one of the instruments—both during the Zia years and from 1988 until recently—of the army-dominated government at the Centre for the purpose of undermining the PPP in Sindh which has been the Bhuttos' traditional stronghold. The alliance between the late Jam Sadiq Ali, the Sindh Chief Minister, until three months ago, and the MQM was forged under the Centre's aegis. And Jam Sadiq Ali's adviser on law and order in Sindh was none other than Irfanullah Marwat, the son-in-law of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. What the present army chief, General Asif Nawaz, has now done in effect is to dismantle the entire policy towards Sindh. How will this affect the equations between the President and the Army chief? Will the MQM, without the patronage of the army leadership, retain its political dominance at the PPP's expense? These are the questions, crucial both to the configuration in Islamabad and to Sindh's future, which the army's clean-up campaign in the province has brought to the fore. At the moment, MQM is facing an unprecedented crisis. Last week witnessed a series of clashes between Altaf Hussain's supporters and opponents. What is still unclear is how many of the latter are pawns in the hands of the army and how many are genuinely sick of Hussain's cloak-and-dagger methods.

Russian First Secretary Missing Since 6 Jul

BK0807031692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] A Russian diplomat, Mr. Aleksandr Ganitch, is missing since Monday [6 July] morning from the Embassy premises in New Delhi. A report has been launched by the Russian Embassy with the local police. According to information available, Mr. Ganitch, first secretary in the embassy, went to his office in the morning, but after sometime left the embassy for an unknown destination in the city in his car. He has not come back since then. A red alert has been sounded by the police and all-out efforts are being made to trace the missing diplomat.

Iran

'World Arrogance' Behind Kordestan Insurgents

LD0907105892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Projects and staff officials of the second region of the Islamic Publicity Organization, accompanied by officials and members of bureaus affiliated to the organization in the west of the country, met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

At the meeting the president said: The solid and logical laws and regulations of Islam are based on the free spirit of man. If those divine precepts are explained to the people of the world, within the framework of cultural and artistic activities, they would attract pure souls and free-thinking spirits.

Referring to unity and solidarity and the fraternal atmosphere prevailing between the various sects all over the country he said: We have achieved all that thanks to the divine and humane precepts of Islam, which is a religion of mercy and guidance. We hope that, in the future, society will move toward further deepening and strengthening that atmosphere of unity and concord. Basically, the prosperity and greatness of Muslims today is due to unity and cooperation and to refraining from sectarian tendencies and harmful sectarian clashes.

Addressing the Islamic Publicity Organization officials in the west of the country he said: All the people of Kordestan are warm-blooded and devoted to the system and the Islamic revolution. They have repeatedly proved their loyalty and devotion throughout the post-revolution period. We witnessed a recent example of that devotion and loyalty to Islam in their extensive participation in the Majles election. He added: Unfortunately, those who oppose progress and ending deprivation in Kordestan, who are guided by world arrogance, have prevented investigations into and the ending of deprivation in that region in the post-revolution years. But thanks to the self-sacrifices and perseverance of the Law Enforcement Forces in crushing insurgents and foreign agents, God be praised, a suitable atmosphere has come about in the west of the country for constructive work and [religious] propaganda activities. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Disputes With UN, U.S.

LD0707174292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Following the emergence of differences between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations over the inspection of Iraq's Agriculture Ministry building, the president of the Security Council has called on that country to adhere to the full implementation of UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

A year ago, the Iraqi president admitted in a detailed letter to the UN secretary general that Iraq had programs for obtaining nuclear weapons, and three months later the Security Council approved Resolution 715 on constant international air and ground monitoring of Iraq's scientific, industrial, and armaments activities. However, the issue of the inspection of suspicious places in search of documents revealing illegal activities with regard to the production of chemical, biological, and mass destruction weapons has, from time to time, led to the intensification of disputes between Iraq and the United Nations.

Last year, in the process of the transfer of information by the inspection team in Baghdad, the American head of the team put the information directly at the disposal of American analysts instead of sending it to the United Nations. The UN secretary general protested this.

In the current situation, too, the head of the delegation, who is a woman, is an American major. Following the revelations about America's unstinting help to Iraq for equipping that country with banned weapons—revelations which caused turmoil and disputes in the press and the U.S. Administration—a number of analysts became convinced that, in the United Nations' confrontation with Iraqi transgressions, the United States had aims exceeding those of the Security Council's resolutions; for example, it wanted to prevent further exposure of the direct involvement of the U.S. President and other officials in arming Iraq with banned weapons.

In view of Iraq's chaotic situation and the inability of that country's regime to impose its sovereignty, political analysts also consider the Iraqi officials' hindrance of the UN delegation in carrying out its task as a maneuver aimed at demonstrating the regime's ability to run the country. In the meantime, some analysts also believe that Iraq's political authorities are using various pretexts for talking with U.S. officials in order to re-establish their seemingly severed links. In the opinion of Iraqis, the occurrence of this kind of dispute keeps the door open for talks with the Americans.

Regional Security, West's Stance on Iraq Viewed

NC0707140092 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Jun 92 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "West's New View of Iraqi Regime"]

[Text] Three years have passed since the American-Iraqi "war of avarice" in the Persian Gulf [against Iran], but the future of the Baghdad regime is still ambiguous.

Following the "expansionist" attack by American armed forces in response to similar "avarice" by the Ba'thist army against Kuwait and the inflicting of serious blows on the economic and military structure of the Iraqi ruling regime, the result of stringent economic and political sanctions and a boycott by regional and Western governments, diplomatic circles predicted the fall of Saddam in Iraq.

Despite the passage of three years, these signs have been proved wrong by the deliberate leniency of hostile governments. In the past few weeks, the mass media and publications have reported a different stance by Western political circles and Arab governments, on the Iraqi regime's situation and its destiny, probably based on the following:

—The relinquishing of the American plan to topple Saddam.

—The declaration of certain Arab regimes' willingness to resume relations with Iraq.

—The UN green light to abandon some of the serious economic sanctions against that country.

These stances have been adopted despite the ruling Iraqi regime's performance showing none of the effects of punishment and no change in its hostile stance against neighboring governments' national and regional interests.

Needless to say that at the height of Iraq's imposed war against Iran, his eminence the imam (God's blessings be upon him) so prophetically addressed the region's Arab rulers and said: "I entreat the heads of Persian Gulf Arab countries to give no further support to the bankrupt political element Saddam. If today he ends his war with us, tomorrow he will seek out each one of you individually."

The region's Arab governments did not realize the truth of his eminence the imam's warning because they were so steeped in their blind nationalistic prejudices. In view of the unfortunate and difficult ordeal these countries faced in the oil war, they should not repeat their past mistakes in their political performance.

The most obvious point is that the Persian Gulf region needs security and this security cannot be achieved by relying on insurgents like the Baghdad regime or aggressors like the U.S. Armed Forces. The best and easiest way to achieve such security is to rely on the collective cooperation of the region's countries that have expressed their goodwill.

In view of its superior military and economic capability, its peace-loving and enlightened diplomacy, and Islamic beliefs in common with its neighbors, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the best axis for ensuring such understanding and security in the region.

Certainly, Iraq, in view of its considerable potential capability, but only if there is a principled change in its ruling regime's hostility and expansionism, can also

complement this chain of regional cooperation. Unfortunately, no evidence of any such principled change can be perceived on the horizon of Iraq's political positions, not even a tilt toward peaceful coexistence with its neighbors. A good future in the Persian Gulf depends on breaking with the past and the despicable past behavior of most of the region's Arab governments.

Daily Warns Against Disintegration of Iraq

LD0607211292 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—A Persian daily Monday criticised the setting up of a separatist Kurdish Government in Northern Iraq as a step towards practical disintegration of Iraq and separation of the northern areas from the country.

"Any efforts carried out under any pretext or by anyone are doomed and should not be tolerated," said "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its editorial, warning that the territorial integrity of Iraq should be maintained otherwise everybody would sustain losses.

The issue brings about problems of national security for Iraq's neighbours and its dimensions are by far more serious than to be ignored as an Iraqi domestic issue.

The daily warned that any naivete and negligence in recognising realities and developments, and any concordance with this phenomenon can bring about serious and unpleasant consequences for the region particularly for Iraq's neighbours.

Turning to the stands taken vis-a-vis Iraqi developments, it said that Turkey has always tried to exploit the situation there. However, she seems to have realised now that "anyone who sows wind reaps the whirlwind".

Iran's stand vis-a-vis developments in Iraq and especially for the Kurdish plight has been clear, explicit and firm, said JOMHURI.

Touching on the hostile conduct of Saddam Husayn and his Ba'ath Party towards neighbouring countries including Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and even Turkey and Syria, it stressed that everybody should accept the fact that "Iraq is not the personal fiefdom of Saddam or his Ba'athist regime."

However, said the daily, Iran condemns and will not accept any efforts to Balkanize Iraq as strongly as it denounced the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Iraq is a country and its territorial integrity should be maintained, it added.

"The problem there is the blood-sucking regime which rules Iraq, and the problem will be solved only through ousting of Saddam from power and his replacement by a Government elected by the oppressed Iraqi people," said the daily.

JOMHURI made it clear that the hatred of Saddam and his Ba'athist regime is certainly not a justification to endorse the disintegration of the Islamic land of Iraq.

"Iraqi Kurds who have taken shelter with global arrogance, must realize that arrogance is the enemy of regional people that does not care either for Saddam, the Kurds or any other forces in the region. They must realize the before it is too late", it concluded.

Khomeyni on Propagating Islam, Economic Hardship

LD0707130992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] A group of personnel from the industries sector of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics were received by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni today. In the meeting, pointing to the forthcoming anniversary of the eternal epic of Imam Husayn's martyrdom in Karbala' and comparing it with the state of the Islamic revolution, he said: The growth of the Islamic movements in various parts of the world, such as Algeria, Egypt, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine, and the newly independent Central Asian countries, are all thanks to the 'Ashura uprising. The spiritual influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the world Muslims stems from the 'Ashura uprising, and this influence will prevail, since it beckons Muslims to their noble Islamic essence.

Pointing out that today, too, as in the time of Imam Husayn's uprising, may God's blessing be upon him, the entire propaganda tools and levers are bent on crushing the spirits of those who seek Islam and the truth, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed: We must follow the thoughts of the imam and the stands of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Pointing to the firm belief of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to Paradise, in the principle of the worldliness of Islam, he said: The belief that our contacts with Western countries must be on the basis of Islamic and revolutionary principles means that we must have freedom to vote. We must constantly propagate the thoughts of his eminence the imam, and the viewpoints of the leader of the Islamic revolution to the rest of the world.

Concluding his speech, he reiterated the need for domestic specialists to participate in the country's reconstruction and economic, social, and cultural growth, adding: To get through the reconstruction period, we have no choice but to endure the difficulties, because any setback in economic policies would jeopardize the entire achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Commentary Denies Development of Nuclear Weapons

LD0807191492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] In a letter to the UN secretary general yesterday, Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations, described reports and propaganda about Iranian efforts to gain access to nuclear weapons as baseless and announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's full readiness to cooperate with the United Nations to pursue the Iranian-initiated plan of comprehensive nuclear disarmament. We point out that Iran is one of the signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and is committed to it.

This treaty calls on all countries of the world to accept a legal undertaking not to implement plans leading to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The treaty divides world countries into two groups: either they sign the treaty and join the ranks of the world's nonnuclear [as heard] countries, or they refuse to sign the treaty and are then considered as a nuclear country and subsequently accept all the dangers of such a situation.

The treaty also stresses that the nuclear countries should consider themselves responsible for carrying out their commitments and should prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the nonnuclear countries.

Iran, for its part, actively cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The Islamic Republic continues its peaceful nuclear research work under the IAEA's supervision. IAEA inspectors have repeatedly visited Iran's nuclear research centers and their last inspection was 19 February 1992. During this inspection of Iran's nuclear research centers, as on previous occasions, the agency's inspection team did not produce any evidence corroborating allegations by the mass media. This was at a time when Iran itself was the biggest victim of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the course of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war.

Iraq, a signatory of the Geneva Protocol of 1975, which also signed the existing Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1968, violated all of its commitments in the aggression against Iran; furthermore, those countries which possessed chemical and nuclear weapons assisted Iraq to gain access to chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Most countries of the world are trying to utilize nuclear energy for purposes other than military applications; Iran is no exception to this rule. The utilization of nuclear energy in the military for constructing nuclear weapons is only one of its many applications. During the war against Iraq, the Islamic Republic clearly proved that it has no need to deploy such weapons, and it can defend its territorial integrity without having to use such weapons.

The only object of reports and propaganda alleging that Iran is striving to gain access to nuclear weapons is to put pressure on Iran. The best proof of this claim is Israel, which has refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It now possesses the biggest arsenal of nuclear weapons. While pursuing extensive programs of uranium enrichment, Israel possesses nuclear weapons; and no doubt the Zionist regime's nuclear programs, being pursued outside the framework of international regulations, are considered a very serious threat to security and stability of the region and the world. [passage omitted]

German Chemical Disarmament Request Supported

LD0707092892 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—Iran has given a positive reply to a German request for supporting the chemical disarmament convention draft, on condition that it will not pose problems for the Third World's economic and industrial programmes especially that of chemical industries.

This was announced during a meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki and special envoy of the German Government Josif Holik here Monday.

Mottaki pledged that Iran as "a major victim of chemical weapons attack" after World War 2 will actively participate in preparation of the draft according to the Islamic principles of its foreign policy.

However, he remarked that the text and principles of the convention should be universal in application without any biased or discriminatory tendencies, and should also be supported by a surveillance system.

It is under such desireable conditions that observation of the principles of the convention can be ensured by all members, he said.

Holik conveyed a verbal message from German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel to Mottaki and praised Iran's active participation in codifying the draft convention in Geneva.

He also called for Tehran-Bonn cooperation in international fields.

The draft is expected to be handed over to the General Assembly of the United Nations for endorsement by all members during the current year.

Germany's Kinkel had earlier called for Iran's support for the draft in a written message to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velyati.

* Commercial Relations With Germany Expanding

92AS1162A London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jun 92 p 11

[Text] Last year, with exports valued at 6.7 billion marks, Germany maintained its position as Tehran's

number-one trading partner. Experts on international trade believe that this year, in view of the special credit instruments Germany is providing the Islamic Republic of Iran, the increase in the Hermes insurance limits on goods exported to Iran, and finally giving extensive resources for 360- and 720-day usance transactions to Iranian merchants and the government organizations engaged in trade with Germany, the value of the Islamic Republic's imports from Germany will exceed 7.5 billion marks. Based on foreign trade statistical reports published by the members of the European Economic Community, in 1991 Germany traded a total of about 8.25 billion marks in goods and substances with the Islamic Republic, about 1.5 billion marks of which is Iran's exports to that country. Every year the Islamic Republic puts a significant amount of foreign exchange into its treasury through the export of hand-woven Iranian carpets, crude oil, dried fruit, ores, leather, and industrial goods. A report published in the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLEMAGNE, printed in Germany, states that German merchants and industrial leaders are trying to remove the various administrative and customs obstacles to the Islamic Republic's exports to increase exports of their products to this country. The newspaper mentioned the recent trip by an economic delegation from the Tehran Islamic regime to Germany. It wrote: In a stay of several days in Germany, Ne'matzadeh, the Islamic Republic's minister of industries, negotiated with Bonn's industrial leaders and commercial officials to remove the existing restrictions on the export of some German goods to Iran.

After returning from his several-day trip to Germany, the Islamic regime of Tehran's minister of industries announced that Iran's investments in Germany are 2.5 times as much as German investments in Iran. He called upon German officials to make efforts to establish a commercial balance between the two countries and to increase German investments in Iran.

Decree on Rushdie To Affect Relations With UK

NC0407160692 Tehran SALAM in Persian
28 Jun 92 p 12

[Tabesh commentary: Why Is British Official Coming to Tehran?"]

[Excerpts] The apostate Salman Rushdie appeared in the British Parliament and, while expressing his appreciation of the London government's support, said the British Foreign Office had assured him that while the decree on his murder remains, Britain will not establish diplomatic relations with Iran.

In recent months there have been unofficial reports in political circles that despite the climate of normalization of relations and Iran's declaration of its willingness, the British Government has laid down certain conditions for improving relations. It has even been said that the British suspended talks between the two countries' officials and postponed their resumption until after the elections in Iran. You cannot air any definite views on the truth or otherwise of such reports, but we can only hope the Foreign Ministry will break its customary silence and express some opinions on this subject.

Now the apostate Rushdie claims the British Government has decided to present the annulment of his eminence the imam's decree as a prerequisite of upgrading relations with Iran. We have no idea what was discussed during the Iranian Foreign Ministry director general's recent visit to London, but it is expected that when Rushdie, 40 months on, makes his claims in the British Parliament, responsibility for the political repercussions would on principle fall on London.

With a British official scheduled to arrive in Tehran to reciprocate Asefi's visit, it would be appropriate for him to declare his country's stance on the subject before disembarking at Tehran Airport. [passage omitted]

If the British stance is as Rushdie claims it is, the British official's visit seems rather inappropriate. In light of this, the visit can even be interpreted as an insult to the Muslim nation of Iran. Hopefully, our Foreign Ministry will adopt some suitable measures.

* Gas Pipeline to Europe Operational in 1996

92AS1162B London KEYHAN in Persian
25 Jun 92 p 11

[Text] The Islamic Republic intends, with the financial participation of Azerbaijan and the Ukraine, to build a gas pipeline to transfer gas produced from Iran's southern reserves to European markets. This pipeline will pass through Azarbaijan, and based on the treaty signed between the Islamic Republic and the Ukraine, these two countries will jointly provide the equipment and tools necessary to build the pipeline. According to the Islamic regime of Tehran's minister of oil, this pipeline will be managed by a company to be created with the capital of the three countries, the bulk of which will be provided by the Ukraine and the Islamic Republic. Gholamreza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum, gave an interview to a reporter from the London publication PETROLEUM ARGUS. He said: Iran will provide 45 percent, the Ukraine 45 percent, and Azerbaijan will provide 10 percent of the capital for the company which will create the pipeline to transfer Iran's gas to Europe via Azarbaijan and the Ukraine. The Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum added: The pipeline will go into service in 1996. It will have a capacity of 25 billion cubic meters per year, and in addition to the Ukraine, other European nations and gas companies on this continent will also be able to use its gas.

Elsewhere in his interview with PETROLEUM ARGUS, Gholamreza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said: In addition to building the pipeline to transfer gas through the Ukraine to Europe, the Gas du France Institute has been charged

with conducting the necessary technical studies in this country concerning the possibility of exporting Iran's gas via Turkey.

Official Calls For Restraint in Energy Use

LD0607103592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The reason behind the power cuts during the past few days is that one unit at the Neka power station and two units at the Lowshan and Zargan stations have been excluded from the grid. We begin the bulletin with the deputy energy minister's explanation in this regard:

[Begin deputy energy minister recording] The main reason behind the recent power cuts is probably the sudden and unexpected hot weather. If we compare the situation with previous years, even though we have experienced much warmer springs in previous years, we saw that toward the end of Tir [month beginning 22 June] the temperature would reach 40 degrees centigrade. This year, however, the temperature has already been hovering around 40 or 39 degrees for several days. We had predicted that we would reach this temperature later on. Therefore, we had scheduled some of our units to be under repair during this time; in other words, maximum electricity usage is greater than we had predicted for this period. During peak times, electricity usage is exceeding our predictions by about 300 to 400 megawatts. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1644 GMT on 5 July adds the following: "Repeated telephone calls from our dear compatriots, especially fellow residents of Tehran, suggest that many areas of the city and possibly parts of the country are experiencing power cuts. These cuts, especially in the summer months when cooling equipment is being used to provide comfort, have caused some of our compatriots, especially fellow Tehranis who currently have no electricity, to ask us to inform those of you who do have electricity to exercise restraint to allow other compatriots to benefit from that blessing, God willing. We have also had repeated requests from Ministry of Energy officials, especially the Water Company, calling on us to ask you dear compatriots to exercise restraint in your water usage to allow other people to receive drinking water."]

Phosphate Deposit Discovered in Ahmad Province

LD0607165192 Tehran IRNA in English 1201 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Text] Yasuj (Kohkiloyeh-Buyer Ahmad Prov.), July 5, IRNA—The country's largest phosphate mine with estimated reserves of 400 million tons has been discovered in the Charam District of this province.

According to an official of the phosphate company here today, two other phosphate mines with a total reserve of 140 million tons have also been discovered in the province, 700 kms southwest of Tehran.

Operations at the said mines are being carried out jointly by the phosphate company and a private exploration and excavation services firm.

Regime Reportedly Destroys 'Hundreds of Houses'

NC0707074992 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1700 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Text] The dregs of the Khomeyni regime have once again razed hundreds of houses belonging to the deprived people of southern and southwestern Tehran. Three hundred houses were destroyed in Motahheri township on the Saveh highway; another 300 were leveled in Taleqani, Nowruzabad, and Sina, located near the old Karaj highway. The houses were destroyed at midnight in a savage, Mongol-style raid, with the collusion of the regime's agents in the municipality and the assistance of the regime's guards and law enforcement forces. Loaders and bulldozers destroyed the houses in front of the residents.

The inhumane municipality—in an announcement broadcast this afternoon on the regime's radio—attempted to justify this bestial act in a shameless and despicable manner. It claimed that the shops and houses destroyed had been built without the necessary authorization, and their demolition was carried out because of violations of legal regulations.

Over the past 10 days, the inhumane municipality has razed more than 1,600 residential and commercial units right over the heads of the deprived and homeless people, and made thousands homeless. It stressed that it would continue its criminal policy and announced that the demolition work would continue.

There is no doubt that these ruthless and criminal atrocities, which rob the deprived and disgusted people who worked hard to construct shelters for themselves, will fan the fires of the people's fury. The day is near when the people will reach the end of their endurance and join the National Liberation Army. Then they will wreck the houses of the criminal regime's officials over the officials' heads!

Construction Jihad Minister on Private Sector

LD0707194392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] The Construction Jihad Ministry has considerable resources which can be transferred to the nonstate sector. These include milk and meat production industries, haymaking, livestock breeding, model farms, natural resources, forestry, pasture land, and fisheries.

After announcing the above, the construction jihad minister, Mr. Golan Reza Foruzesh, speaking at a meeting attended by deputies and a group of company managers

affiliated with the ministry, added: Our country is currently going through a reconstruction and development process. We are on the eve of compiling the second five-year plan. We should, therefore, work in accordance with the new policies pursued by the government and the circumstances of the day.

Mr. Foruzesh, while stressing the need for a reduction of bureaucracy in allocation of tasks to the nonstate sector, called upon the managers affiliated with the Construction Jihad Ministry to accelerate the compilation of a list of the resources which can be transferred to the nonstate sector. Mr. Foruzesh reiterated the importance of the people's participation in the transfer of activities to the nonstate sector, since this is one of the fundamental and significant principles pursued by the Construction Jihad Ministry.

ICAO 'Silence' Over Airbus Downing Assailed

LD0607114692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The managing director of the airlines of the Islamic Republic of Iran, commenting on the fourth anniversary of the shooting down of a civilian Iranian airliner by the invading American forces in the Persian Gulf, honored the memory of the martyrs of the tragedy. He said: The recent admission of the American authorities regarding this tragedy is an ultimate and clear document on the worst crime that has hitherto occurred in the world's civilian air transport industry. He continued: The silence of international circles, especially the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO], is neither justifiable nor explicable. He stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to follow the issue in any way it wishes, if faced once again with the silence of international circles.

Aviation Group Asked To Revise Airbus Report

LD0707124192 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—A morning daily today called for revising the airbus crime report in view of Washington's self-confession of its crime of missiling down the Iranian passenger plane on July 3, 1988 in Iran's own territorial waters.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial took note of the "unjust decision" of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which after one year of investigation not even condemned the U.S. for its inhumane crime.

It asked: "Now that the truth is being divulged about U.S. brutality, shouldn't ICAO revise its former statement and for the sake of its own credibility condemn Washington for such a horrendous crime?"

Following the ICAO ruling on the case as "a mistake" on July 24, 1984, Iran filed a claim against the U.S. Administration at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, which has yet to pass a judgement.

"...All the Iranian people and the free nations of the world expect the ICJ judges to issue the right and just verdict after taking into consideration international regulations as well as the fact that the U.S. Navy massacred 290 innocent passengers", said the daily.

Proofs of Washington's crime have suddenly surfaced in the American print and electronic four years after the USS Vincennes cold bloodedly sent 290 innocent passengers to a watery grave in the Persian Gulf.

Retired Admiral William Crowe, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chief of Staff, last week confirmed that the Vincennes was in Iranian waters and not international waters as claimed previously.

KAYHAN called Crowe's statement as "clear confession of a former U.S. brass hat" indicating the violation of internationally recognized sea regulations by the Americans.

Liquefied Gas Sent to Nakhichevan

LD0707212192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] The humanitarian aid extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Muslim people of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan is continuing. According to a Central News Unit report from Tabriz, during the past few days, 60 tonnes of liquefied gas was dispatched to that republic. Liquefied gas is used in the hospitals of Nakhichevan for health and treatment purposes.

Banking Relations Discussed With Turkmenistan

LD0807164792 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The director-general of Turkmenistan's Foreign Trade Bank, Mr. Moradov, here today delivered the message of Turkmen Vice-President to the Governor of Iran's Central Bank Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli.

Moradov thanked Iran for granting a $50 million credit to Turkmenistan and for training the republic's bank staff.

Stressing promotion of Tehran-Ashkhabad relations, Adeli said the Iranian banking system is ready to facilitate trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Gorgan, Turkmen Chambers of Commerce Sign Accords

LD0807175692 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Gorgan, Mazandaran Prov., July 8, IRNA—To promote Gorgan-Ashkhabad trade exchanges 17 protocols to the value of 30 million dollars were signed by Gorgan and Turkmen Chambers of Commerce here last week.

Head of commerce, industries and mines chamber of Gorgan, Pour Alahverdi said here today that according to the protocols, industrial entrepreneurs here agreed to set up several plants and industrial units including textile, macaroni and other foodstuff factories in Turkmenistan.

He said that they had encouraged both arrangement of joint fairs to market Iran-Ashkhabad products in Ashkabad and Gorgan and traders' traffic between the two cities adding that a representative office of each chamber would be established in the other city.

According to him arrangement had been made for exchange of trade, and exchange visits by delegates of the two countries. Another part of the agreement provides for the arrangement of permanent fairs for selling products in Gorgan and Aliabad of Iran and exchange of business information.

The agreements were signed during a visit of Turkmen economic delegation to this city by Turkmen and Gorgan traders.

He enumerated some border facilities for traffic of goods and transportation, and joint investments as the outcomes of the visit to Gorgan of the Turkmen economic delegation.

Alahverdi concluded that in response to this visit and to follow up the agreements he would perhaps shortly visit Turkmenistan.

Turkman, Khorasan Seismic Research Center Planned

LD0807184692 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., July 8, IRNA—Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and Turkmenistan's Seismology Institute signed an agreement in Ashkhabad this week for research in seismology and introduction of standardized structural strength against seismic vibrations.

According to the agreement the Turkmen Seismology Institute will dispatch a team of professionals to the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with Mashhad University researchers for setting up a seismography network in Khorassan Province of Iran. He added that nine Turkmen teachers from Ashkhabad University would teach at Mashhad University.

According to a similar agreement with Tajikistan's State University in Dushanbe an academic team from the university is to visit Mashhad for higher education cooperation with Iran.

Tajikistan's Transport Minister Meet Velayati

LD0807180692 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Tajik Minister of Roads and Transportation, Bazarali Safarov [name as received] met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

The two officials talked on establishment of air links and two or three communication routes between Iran and Tajikistan. Safarov expressed hope that Tehran-Dushanbe air links would shortly be operational.

Referring to the recent visit to Tehran of Tajik president, Velayati called the air link as "the simplest way" for connecting the two countries.

Transportation Agreement Signed

LD0807201192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] A memorandum of understanding on cooperation in road, air, and rail transport has been signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikistan.

In an interview with our correspondent on cooperation in road transport between Iran and Tajikistan, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, minister of roads and transport, said: Our two countries have agreed to exchange proposed agreements. The transit of the two countries' goods and passengers by road will take place through approved transit points of the two sides, including the routes to and from Mashhad, Ashkhabad, Samarkand, and Dushanbe.

Our country's road and transport minister added: According to the memorandum of understanding, the two sides have agreed to set up a regular passenger transport service on the route between Mashhad and Dushanbe within two months from the signing date. It has also been agreed that action should be taken about annual multiple entry visas for transport drivers. The minister of road and transport also announced: A delegation of Iranian international transport companies will visit Dushanbe within the next two months for talks with Tajik transport companies.

On cooperation in air transport, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia said: The Tajik Airline Company has announced its readiness to charter two TU-154 aircraft to the Iran Air Tour Company, which is affiliated with Iran Air.

Referring to a Tajik request for training pilots, air-traffic controllers, flight engineers, aircraft electronics engineers, communications staff, service engineers, and

maintenance and in-flight service personnel, the minister said: Iran said it is willing to do this.

Tajik Transport Minister Safarov told our correspondent: Tajik and Iranian airlines have announced their readiness for reciprocal flights between the two countries, so that the first flight by Tajik Airlines will take place from Dushanbe to Tehran on 22 July.

The Tajik transport minister added: A joint commission, led by the road and transport ministers of the two countries, will meet alternately every year in Tehran and Dushanbe to monitor the implementation of the agreements which have been signed

Indian Official Discusses Kashmir With Besharati

LD0707171492 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—In a meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit today First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati welcomed the growing trend of Irano-Indian cooperation in post-Islamic revolution era.

Besharati expressed concern over the situation of the Muslim people of Kashmir adding that Iran's policy was based on non-intervention in internal affairs of other countries. He also urged the Indian Government to continue with its efforts in settling the Kashmir issue.

Dixit who arrived here early today voiced his Government's readiness to politically resolve the Kashmir issue and appreciated Iran's attention to the issue as a friendly country.

On bilateral Tehran-New Delhi ties, Dixit commented that the Indian Government was willing to participate in Iran's reconstruction "as you deemd necessary."

The two officials also exchanged views on the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and regional as well as international issues.

Further on Meeting

LD0707213892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] India's deputy foreign minister, Mr. Jyontindra Dixit, today met with the deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Besharati, in Tehran.

At the meeting, Mr. Besharati, referring to the two countries' long-standing ties, especially in the cultural field, welcomed the restoration of relations between the two countries of India and Iran after the Islamic revolution. He also expressed his concern over the condition of Muslim Kashmiris, and with reference to the noninterference policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the internal affairs of other countries, asked the Government of India to continue its efforts to solve this crisis there.

Referring to things the two countries have in common, especially their active membership in the Nonaligned Movement, Mr. Besharati called for more cooperation between Iran and India on international and regional issues. Concerning international and regional development, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects foreign intervention and regards this as an insult to the national sovereignty of people.

The Indian deputy foreign minister urged the expansion of Iranian-Indian ties and stressed that the Jammu-Kashmir crisis be resolved through political means.

Announces Credit for Power Plant

LD0707213392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Indian Deputy Foreign Minister Jyontindra Dixit announced in Tehran on Tuesday afternoon that India is prepared to implement the Kerman power plant project with the allocation of the necessary credit.

After meeting Mr. Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, the Indian deputy foreign minister said he was ready to hold specialized talks with the Iranian authorities about the expansion of commercial and industrial cooperation.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0807113192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr. Jyontindra Dixit, deputy foreign minister of India and special envoy of that country's prime minister.

At this meeting, Mr. Dixit, while submitting a written message from the prime minister of India, said: From the time that the two countries formed a joint commission, very effective steps have been taken with regard to the expansion of relations and cooperation. There have also been useful exchanges of opinion about a variety of regional and international issues. He called for strengthening relations and cooperation in all fields, especially in the implementation of technical projects and the revival of long-standing trade, commercial, cultural, and artistic relations between the two countres.

Hashemi-Rafsjani said: The record of cooperation between the two countries, the geographical and population features, the viewpoints shared by Iran and India, and also the fact that a large proportion of the population of India is Muslim are all positive factors in many world issues and necessitate greater closeness and expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

In another part of his remarks, the president noted that the strengthening of relations between India and Iran

could be counted as a factor for stability in the region to the benefit of all countries, especially the Central Asian countries.

He added: We hope that cooperation between the two countries will progress faster toward their practical and implementational stages. He welcomed, at the end of his remarks, the expansion of relations in all fields of interest to both countries, notably railway, energy, economic, and trade projects.

Confers With Velayati

LD0807192992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] In a meeting today with Foreign Minister Velayati, Indian Deputy Foreign Minister Dixit referred to the expanding trend of mutual ties and the holding of a session in the near future by the two countries' joint economic commission. He stressed the need to discuss and plan at various technical and industrial levels.

Mr. Velayati said that there are various fields of cooperation between the two countries which we can strengthen through consideration for the past record of cooperation.

During their meeting, the two sides discussed the future session of the leaders of the Nonaligned Movement members in Indonesia, and they stressed the need to confer and discuss the movement's policy.

Interviewed on Ties With Iran, Pakistan

LD0807193792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Iran and India have reached agreements in various fields which will create a practical basis for the expansion of mutual ties. After his meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, Indian Deputy Foreign Minister Dixit stressed in an interview with our correspondent the importance of the long-standing ties between Iran and India. He said: Recent world developments have had a positive effect on the improvement and strengthening of relations between the two countries.

He pointed out that after Indonesia, with 120 million Muslims, India has the second largest Muslim population in the world. He said: India's Muslims are a valuable group in the subcontinent's society. They have no critical problems.

He described the Baberi Mosque incident as a sectarian clash between Hindus and Muslims and expressed hope that the problem will be solved through peaceful means.

Speaking about relations between India and Pakistan, Mr. Dixit described Pakistan as India's important neighbor. He stressed that his government is in favor of finding ways to resolve existing problems in relations between the two countries and establishing good-neighborly relations with the Pakistani Government.

Holds Talks With Economic Officials

BK0907061092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] India and Iran will set up joint ventures in the sugar industry and railway construction work. India will also help Iran in its reconstruction work in a big way. This was decided during the discussion between the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, and the senior officials of the Iranian Economic Ministry in Tehran yesterday. Mr. Dixit, accompanied by the senior officials of the Ministries of Petroleum, Commerce and Railways, is on a two-day visit to Iran.

Our Gulf correspondent reports that the foreign secretary also called on the Iranian president, Mr. Rafsanjani, and delivered a letter from the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao.

'Disintegration of Iraq' Discussed

LD0907091392 Tehran IRNA in English 0604 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, Allaeddin Borujerdi, told India's Foreign Secretary Jyontindra Nath Dixit that Iran was opposed to the disintegration of Iraq.

In their meeting here last night the Indian official praised Iran's policies for establishing peace and security in the Persian Gulf and, observed that his government supported the territorial integrity of Iraq. He also stressed on the need for further improving of Iran-India relations.

The Iranian official said in response that Iran was for broadening of relations with the Persian Gulf states, and that closer relations with those states would be conducive to peace and stability in the region.

The two sides also expressed their mutual pleasure with agreements for India's involvement in construction and development projects in Iran.

Gabonese Official on Stronger Commercial Ties

LD0707093692 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—Gabon's minister of state and secretary-general at the presidency, Simon Boulamarti, delivered a message to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati from his Gabonese counterpart last night.

Boulamarti expressed interest over Iran's participation in Gabon's development programmes, and called for boosting of commercial ties.

Velayati hailed the common viewpoints of Tehran and Liberville on international issues including Africa and agreed on expansion of the two countries's trade links.

Paper Deplores Attack on KEYHAN Over 'Typo'

NC0707161892 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Jun 92 p 2

[Commentary by Seyyed Hoseyn Sajjadi: "As You Sow, So Shall You Reap"]

[Excerpts] Who fears the rule of law? To answer this question we should appraise the two kinds of people who do not seem to support the rule of law. The first group comprises those who probably gain prominence or recognition from unrest and agitation and the second are those who are themselves lawless, ruthless bullies. Both are similar in a way; that is, they exploit lawlessness for their personal benefit and fish in murky waters. [passage omitted]

We will not go into too much detail, but move on to the heart of the matter. Have we ever seen a newspaper or magazine come off the press without typographical errors? The printing of newspapers is a rapid process, and within seconds, when news becomes "dated" or "fresh," isn't there room for error? Does every reader have the right to punish the printer, typesetter, correspondent, and editor for errors they may have committed? If they did, who would ever wish to risk his well-being to become a correspondent?

On the day a certain publication became the victim of an attack by certain individuals who interpreted its cover in a certain way, we tried to impress upon everyone, or at least our press colleagues, that the rule of law should not be flouted, but we were accused of taking sides supporting that publication.

Isn't it a shame that laws are ignored and people attack the offices of a publication and do whatever they wish and that a certain newspaper [KEYHAN] should then endorse such lawlessness? "As you sow, so shall you reap."

Yesterday, KEYHAN itself was attacked by a group of people who decided to take the law into their own hands and act like the shari'ah magistrate because of a typographical error in a photo caption.

Yesterday, KEYHAN, with its record of pride in its policy and mass circulation, was, according to witnesses, harassed; the conscientious guard beaten; and the office damaged when the attackers shattered windows.

Hundreds of illustrious KEYHAN employees continued to work despite their fear and anxiety at such lawlessness—even though KEYHAN staff had called in some security officials to help.

Appropriately, those few in KEYHAN who had earlier endorsed similar behavior toward other publications should realize that a mistake, deliberate or unintentional, demands legal action, not attackers who take the law into their own hands. If the typo in KEYHAN was deliberate, then a tribunal with a jury should be called to deliver a verdict—not unidentified attackers who have been goaded into becoming self-styled prosecutors. Has KEYHAN realized that support of lawless actions brings agitation and disorder in its wake and that when lawlessness prevails in a city it generates sedition?

ABRAR Urges Officials To Inform Public

LD0807110892 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday called on officials to openly discuss the problems faced by the country so as to help ease the economic difficulties faced by the people. "ABRAR" criticized the attitude of some officials in refraining from elaborating on current economic bottlenecks such as inflation and soaring prices, and noted that justification of problems would "actually relieve the pain people were suffering in this regard."

It reminded officials of their grave task in keeping the public informed of the related issues, and reiterated that the need for a government spokesman was being felt more than ever before. Other than exceptional cases, such as President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Friday prayer sermons, said the daily, no official has openly discussed such issues with the people. "No doubt, implementation of basic infrastructural projects such as dams, giant petrochemical plants, refineries, and increase in production levels, are bound to have diverse side effects, of which the people should be kept aware," it noted.

ABRAR also blamed official news channels for either not providing the public with up-to-date information or failing to convey such information to them at all. It also urged widening up of the cultural atmosphere in the country arguing that in a limited arena, "cultural aggression" which attacks the political, economic and social pillars of the country, is bound to have a greater impact.

It is in the absence of relaying news and information to the public that the "news giant" of the West will appear to loom larger.

Pakistan

Sharif Comments on Restoring Peace in Sindh

BK0807150992 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said that permanent and lasting peace cannot be restored in Sindh Province unless they root out all the dacoits [robbers], kidnappers, and criminal elements, (?tone up) the civil and police administration, and revamp its structure. He was addressing a group of notables, including lawyers, politicians, and academicians in Karachi this morning. He said that Operation Cleanup has been undertaken to arrest the deteriorating law and order situation in Sindh Province. The prime minister made it clear that the Operation Cleanup was

not against any group or party and the main objective of the operation was to eliminate dacoits, kidnappers, and other criminals.

The prime minister said that he has undertaken the current tour with a view to listening to suggestions about the prevailing situation in Sindh. He declared that the Operation Cleanup will continue up to its final conclusion. Tracing the history of the deteriorating law and order situation, he said it dates back to almost a decade and started deteriorating further between 1988 and 1990 and there have been frequent breakdown of law and order and imposition of curfew. The prime minister said the situation took a turn from bad to worse and the government had to take firm steps to arrest the deteriorating law and order situation. He said the government therefore finally decided to eliminate dacoities, kidnapping, and other criminal activities. The prime minister said that he was quite aware of the political consequences and that is why we have decided to continue the Operation Cleanup to its final conclusion.

Drawing the attention of the participants, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the law and order situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the investment level now stands at zero. The prime minister said the government wanted to ensure a lasting peace in the turbulent province. He said all the criminals should be dealt with in accordance with the law and reiterated that the operation is not aimed against any group or party. He said the operation is being carried evenhandedly and therefore there should not be any misgivings in this regard. He was confident that the situation would soon be clear and Sindh would brighten up. He hoped that the people from all walks of life will extend their fullest cooperation in this connection.

Later, the prime minister addressed industrialists and businessmen from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the government was striving hard to accelerate economic activities in Sindh so that investment could get a fillip. He said the government is sincerely trying to banish poverty and resolve the unemployment problem; and without investment such problems cannot be resolved, he added. The prime minister however remarked that the prevailing situation in the province of Sindh was responsible for the flight of capital. The prime minister questioned as to how problems like poverty and unemployment could be resolved without peace in the province. He said for seeking investment at a brisk pace, it was essential that there should be peace in the province as no investors would like to invest in a turbulent province. In this backdrop, he said the government took strong measures so that investment could flow from the people and the people could have a sigh of relief.

Later, in the evening, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had a meeting with the editors of local newspapers and senior media men. He exchanged views with the editors about the current political situation in the country. The Sindh governor, Mr. Mahmud A. Haroon; the chief minister, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah; and federal ministers, Mr. Aslam Khan Khattak, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Mr. Elahi Bux Sumro, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika; Minister of State Jam Mashooq Ali; and adviser to the prime minister, Mr. Asad Ali Khan Junejo; were also present on the occasion.

Rules Out Dissolution of Sindh Assembly

BK0907072092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that the Sindh Assembly will continue to function and governor's rule will not be imposed in the province. He was speaking to members of Sindh Assembly in Karachi last evening. Describing all types of rumors spread by certain elements as false, he said that the designs of those who are trying to exploit the situation will not be allowed to reach fulfillment. He said that he can say with full confidence that there is no crisis in Sindh that the opposition is propagating.

The prime minister stressed that the present situation demands that everyone should rise above personal gain to work sincerely in the interest of the nation.

Talking to a delegation of newspapers editors, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that his government has continued to hold the interests of the country and the people supreme and sacred and has not been pressured by acts of lawlessness, vandalism, kidnapping, or other crimes. He asked the people to cooperate with the ongoing Operation Clean-Up in Sindh because it is intended only to restore law and order in the province.

Joint Commission With Afghanistan Established

BK0907065492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to establish a joint ministerial commission to strengthen and improve economic cooperation in trade, agriculture, science, technology, and culture. A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed by Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz and visiting Afghan Planning Minister al-Haj Sayed Mohammad 'Ali Javid in Islamabad yesterday. The two ministers also discussed matters pertaining to the reconstruction and maintenances of roads in Afghanistan. The transit of Afghan trade through Pakistan also came up for discusion. Both sides also considered ways to increase cooperation in various other fields. They also expressed their resolve to expand economic ties and enhance the scope of cooperation over the long-term and on a firm basis.